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Gardening Project Inspires Healthy Choices for Kids

By Mick Colageo

The Marion Institute's Grow Education Farm-to-School program proves that, if children learn about dirt, seeds and the sun, they will live healthier lives. Some third-graders at Sippican Elementary School already know their way around a garden, thanks to their parents and, in some cases, grandparents.

"My dad has a garden in the back, and I help him all the time," said Amelia Whinnem, 8. "He grows kale, carrots, beets, butternut squash, cucumbers … he grows tomatoes. … I eat plain cucumbers, I just cut off the top and I just eat them."

"My grandma grows, like, pumpkins, cucumbers, tomatoes, squash," said Amina Goodman, 9. "Me and my little cousin … we like to help. We even have our own little wheelbarrow and gardening tools."

"My nana is a gardener, too, she used to have farm animals traveling and she had two horses," said Abel Philbrook, 9. "Every single year she grows, like, every single vegetable including watermelon, cantaloupe and pumpkins."

"My grandfather, he does all these tomatoes, and when he's going on a trip we go and pick them, so we end up with all the tomatoes," said Liv Chase, 9. "I used to eat too much candy, now I'm a fruit person."

"My grandmother … she has a garden, and she mostly does tomatoes and flowers, but she also has strawberries, too," said Rowan Berube-King, 8.

The five third-graders, with teacher Tracy Anthony, took The Wanderer on a tour of the Grade 3 gardening project that began at Sippican Elementary earlier in the year.

"Every class did something a little different," said Anthony, who first joined fellow third-grade teachers Mary Jane Couet, Tracy Feeney and Kimberly Souza on a professional-development day. "When we went to the Round The Bend Farm (in South Dartmouth), they were telling us it's about switching and trying to eat more vegetables and fruits that are grown locally to help with local farming."

Convenience and price tags relentlessly compete against a plant-based diet, but third-grade classes at Sippican and in other districts such as New Bedford and Westport are more connected to their outside world and are increasingly cognizant of what they consume.

"I know that probably it would be good to, like, buy cranberries more often because we have a lot here in Massachusetts," said Amelia.

When Nate Sander of the Marion Institute visited in the fall, he introduced many students to general gardening practices, and the outcome was the planting of garlic and clover in brand new, raised gardening beds. Protecting those seeds for the winter months required the planting of pees as a "cover crop." Now, the beds look like they are covered in green grass or a layer of hay.

The students recalled that Sander brought blackberries that the students planted along the fence,

On the Cover: *From left, Sippican Elementary School third-graders Rowan Berube-King, Amina Goodman, Liv Chase, Abel Philbrook and Amelia Whinnem are among students participating in a gardening project recently launched by Nate Sander of The Marion Institute. The children are learning about how the sun and soil work together to produce an environment conducive for plants. Photo by Mick Colageo*

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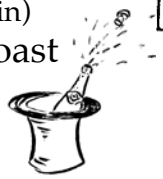
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and some of the students planted wildflowers including milkweed to attract Monarch butterflies. "Monarchs only like one flower," said Rowan.

The students also planted blackberry bushes, and some helped construct the trellises on which the vines will grow next year.

"Every day we did it, it was like a half an hour maybe," said Abel.

"The sun keeps coming out every time we go out there. We went out there once and it was raining, and then it stopped raining once we got out there," said Amelia.

"We are thrilled to partner with Sippican's third-grade teachers and the Marion School District to bring our Grow Education Farm-to-School (Grow FTS) programming to the Tri Town," stated Liz Wiley, executive director of the Marion Institute in a press release. "These school gardens are microcosms of our regional food system where students learn about plants' parts, lifecycles, and health benefits as well as the environment and its impact on local food. It is so important for our youth to be connected to their world in this way. We look forward to a great year at Sippican and to growing the partnership across the district's elementary schools."

Sander will present in two virtual field trips this winter, then return after April vacation to lead a study of the Monarch butterflies, preside over early-spring plantings before conducting the garlic harvest in June before the end of school. Sander will also be present to discuss the Grow Education project during Sippican's Arts in Action night this winter.

"It's wonderful to see our students participate in the Grow FTS program," stated Sippican Elementary School Principal Marla Brown in the press release. "Having this hands-on learning experience fosters a connection to nature and promotes skills that extend beyond the classroom."

"Witnessing the positive impact of our new partnership with the Grow Education Farm-to-School program has been truly inspiring," stated Old Rochester Regional Superintendent of Schools Mike Nelson in the release. "Together, we've cultivated a learning environment that goes beyond textbooks by nurturing

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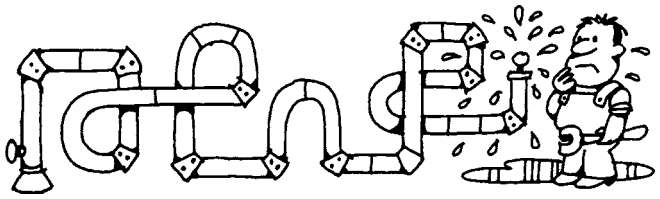
This Mattapoisett Life

By Marilou Newell

If Ma's issues were being addressed today, her life and that of her children might have been easier. But in the 1950s, women's issues and emotional wellbeing weren't a top priority. Her comfort fell to us and Dad.

And so, speaking for myself, I felt responsible for her happiness even at an early age. Dr. Phil would have a field day. Yet I know we are not that unique. We were your average, dysfunctional, co-dependent family trying to avoid conflict. We rarely succeeded.

Ma and Dad would spend 70-plus years together, but they didn't belong together as a couple. Need I say more? They are gone now, and, in spite of her verbalized wish that he would disappear, a mantra we listened to our entire lives, when she finally said goodbye to him the cumulative regrets poured out. He was 92 when he passed

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away – their unhappy life together was over.

Because their marriage failed them, Ma turned to her children to fill the space that should have been her husband's. Thus we became our Mother's soul mate, pal, and buddy. One spends a long time figuring this all out.

There were good times, too. Honestly there were. Ma loved to laugh and we loved to see her happy.

She grew up loving the movies. As her mother cleaned the theater between shows, Ma was allowed to watch the films for free. An early form of employer-provided child care.

Later on she watched all the old black-and-white movies that were broadcast on TV, teaching us the names of the actors and being one of the first film critics we would know. Her opinions were very strong. She hated Betty Davis, John Wayne, and James Cagney. She loved Sophia Loren, Cary Grant, and Rock Hudson.

TV was a big deal. We were taught not to ask her anything as she watched Gunsmoke, Wagon Train, Perry Mason, and many afternoon soap operas. These were the staples of her life. These were her cultural outlets and her distraction from pain.

Ma was also a reader. An insomniac her entire adult life, she'd read well into the early morning hours authors like Frank Yerby, Pearl Buck, Taylor Caldwell, and Agatha Christie. I know because we shared a bed most of my childhood.

I loved cozying up to her at night, feeling her warmth, the smell of talcum powder, touching her lovely dark hair. She was peaceful, and I was happy for that. For hours, I wouldn't move, wouldn't disturb the calm façade. Earlier in the evening after a long day of housework, cooking, laundry, she relished a sit-down with a cup of instant coffee and a cigarette.

As a kid, I became the official errand girl. Several times a day, I'd be sent to one of the markets that once dotted the main drag of Onset village. Her neatly written list and money would be tied in a linen handkerchief. I'd give this to the shopkeeper who'd then collect the items, bag them, place the change and list back in the handkerchief and send me on my way. Once I got home, Ma would teach me how to count the change back – a lost art.

We had a TV when others in the neighborhood did not, so when Elvis was featured on the Ed Sullivan Show our living room became the place to be. What excitement, the females of all ages were panting over his image on the tiny screen. Afterwards they seemed exhausted and glowing. I didn't understand what they were all talking about, but it seemed so important and thrilling. I was a witness to the power of Elvis.

Early on, Ma taught me the basics of good housekeeping; domestic tranquility ruled her home, and I picked up the importance of keeping a home clean and orderly. I learned to cook simple meals and starch and iron everything from undergarments to sheets. She took pride in a home free from dirt, and I followed her example putting great emphasis on these tasks.

Order carried through the holidays. Christmas trees were decorated with each ornament having its own spot. Tinsel was made from aluminum and reused so it had to be handled gently. She showed us how to place individual pieces at the end of every branch. It was so painstakingly slow but resulted in a resplendent finished product.

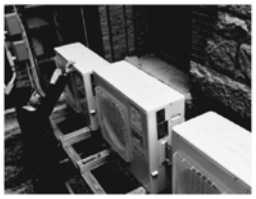
I have only a gauzy memory of Ma doing her own shopping. By the time I was 10, she stopped leaving her property line, eventually not even smelling a breath of fresh air unless someone left a door open a bit too long. Imprisoned by extreme anxiety and depression,

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her laughter became harder to induce, her anger so ready.

We drifted apart as I became a teenager. A pretty common thing between parents and children, but for us we stood on opposite sides of a great breach. I left home at 18 years old. She felt my departure was treason. I felt it was an escape. She was a mother however, and when I really needed her, she was there in essential ways.

When my son was born, she taught me how to change diapers, keep him bathed and warm and how to treat colds and sore throats. Her practical nursing abilities seemed boundless. She knew a little bit about a lot of things. She needed to pass along these wisdoms. It was all she had to give, and they have stood the test of time. And, oh, how she loved that baby.

Years later when she was again able to leave the boundary lines of her tiny home, I took her on numerous day trips and two overnights out of state. These were a really big deal for her (and me, too, if I'm being honest).

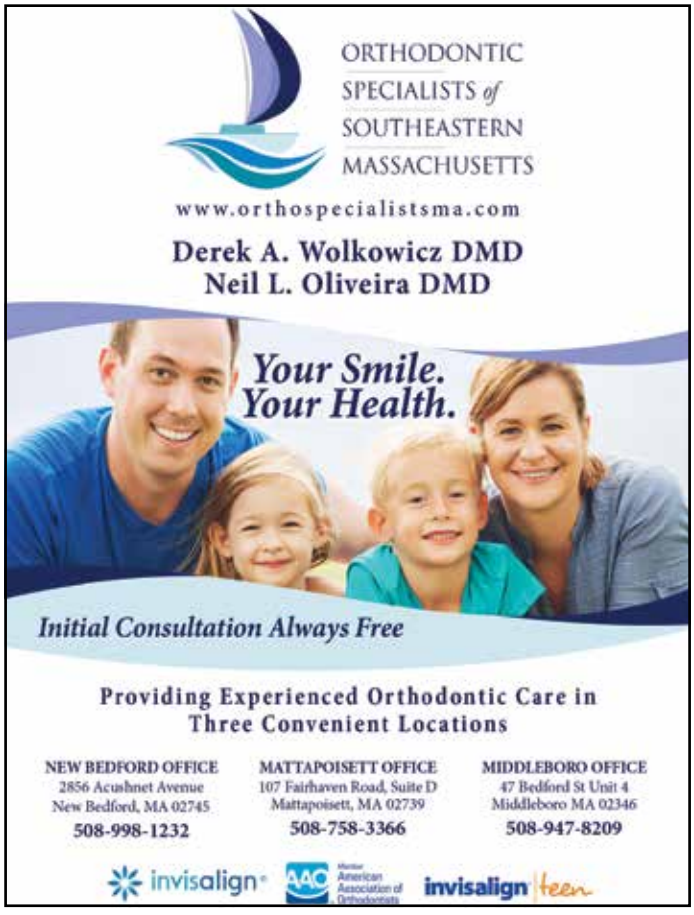
I'd drive until I was exhausted, covering hundreds of miles. She was amazed by mountains covered with forests, farms dotted with cows, leaves in fall color, and rolling coastlines. I wanted to give her a chance at seeing the joy. At 70 or so, old habits of thought are hard to break, but I believe she tried. By then, she was in her 70s.

When I married and moved to Mattapoisett, I continued to spend as much time with her as my schedule would allow. She appreciated every moment without ever saying so. I knew she didn't take my time for granted.

You never know when the last time for doing something is, in fact, the last time. So I don't know the last time I took her out for lunch and shopping, but I do know we would have enjoyed it. We'd laugh, maybe cry, I'd listen to her laments about my father, well-worn terrain I endured.

She never tired of telling me the same anecdotes about her childhood. They were peppered with joy and pain. She had the freedom to roam from morning to night, but also the responsibility of caring for her ailing father while her mother worked. She recalled the gas explosion in Onset when her mother spent the entire day searching for her youngest beloved son, fearing he had been killed, and then the flooding relief when he was found unscathed.





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So often did she relive her own childhood, I can recite the stories as if they are mine. I've spent thousands of hours as my mother's companion and confidant. I listened to it all, but now cannot recall the sound of her voice.

The last few years found her confined to a nursing home where unfamiliar hands attended to her every human need. She could do nothing for herself. She spent her final days wandering the streets and back alleys of her mind. Strokes and old age, deafness and heart failure made speaking very difficult for her. She tried. I listened. We managed. Sometimes we shared only a few words as I spent the time rubbing her face and hands with lotion, massaging her feet that no longer walked. Touching is so critical.

Visiting her was so emotionally difficult for me but so necessary. I promised myself I wouldn't miss her. The lies we tell ourselves. The void she left is slowly filling – slowly. Ma passed away peacefully on January 23, 2014, when no one was looking.

We didn't have a shared religious system to comfort us. We won't be meeting on the other side. But I'll always remember we held hands as she took me along with her, back to 1930 when she skipped along the streets of Onset free from pain, youthful and laughing.

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Alcohol & Health – The Last Word?

What Does The Doctor Say?

By Dr. Ed Hoffer

Tons of ink have been spilled on the health effects, good and bad, of alcohol consumption. Beneficial effects on the heart were discussed in the 1990s based on "the French paradox." A paper published in 1995 noted that there was less ischemic heart disease in France compared to the U.S. despite the fact that saturated-fat intakes and prevalence of smoking were higher.

The relative immunity of the French to ischemic heart disease was attributed to their high alcohol consumption and to their intake of antioxidant vitamins,

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both supplied by wine. The custom of drinking wine with the meal was thought to confer protection against some of the adverse effects of the food. Resveratrol, a chemical found in grape skins, was thought to be a major factor, and for a while many pharmaceutical firms investigated using it.

At the same time, the adverse effects of alcohol are numerous: Liver disease, traffic accidents, gout and many cancers are all higher in heavy drinkers. A recent study from China showed that there was a higher incidence of 61 diseases among males who regularly drank alcohol.

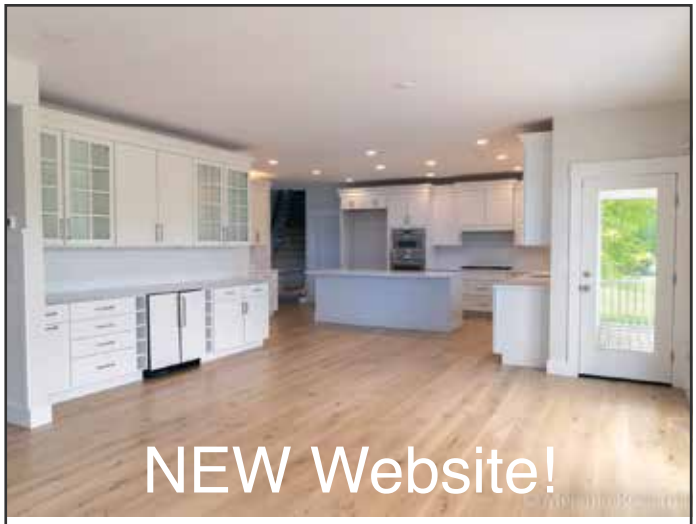
What is the truth?

A study published this spring in JAMA Network Open looked at 107 studies of the relationship between alcohol consumption and mortality. They compared non-drinkers, light drinkers (1-2 drinks/day for men, 1/day for women), moderate drinkers (3-4/day), and heavy drinkers (5 or more drinks/day). Note that a "standard drink" is 12 ounces of beer, 5 ounces of wine or 1.5 ounces of hard liquor.

Compared to lifetime non-drinkers, occasional or light drinkers had a similar mortality, while moderate drinkers had a modestly (5%) higher mortality and heavy drinkers had a 22% higher mortality rate. With very heavy drinkers, a whopping 35% higher death rate was found.

Notably, women who drank any quantity of alcohol had a 20% higher mortality than female lifetime non-drinkers. (Women absorb and metabolize alcohol differently than men. In general, women have less body water than men of similar bodyweight, so that women reach higher concentrations of alcohol in the blood after drinking equivalent amounts of alcohol.)

What are my takeaways from this study? Do not drink because it is "heart healthy." There is no amount of alcohol that reduces your mortality. If you enjoy a beer or a glass of wine with dinner, you can stick with it – you may be trading fewer heart attacks for more liver disease, but the overall effect is neutral. If you drink heavily, please cut down. The life you save will be your own.



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McLaughlin Tabbed New Treasurer

Rochester Select Board

By Mick Colageo

The Rochester Select Board held a special meeting on Tuesday afternoon at Town Hall to vote in Ashling McLaughlin as the town's new full-time treasurer effective Monday, January 8.

"We had number of candidates, and Ashling certainly showed herself to be the best. … She interviewed well, he references were outstanding," said Town Administrator Glenn Cannon, who was happy to report an enthusiastic recommendation from Mattapoisett Town Administrator Mike Lorenco. "You don't always get that vibe from the other TA's."

McLaughlin had already given the Town of Mattapoisett notice. "I've been very transparent with them," she said.

The contract language makes McLaughlin treasurer for the Town of Rochester until the agreement is revoked by the Select Board.

After serving as Rochester's treasurer for the last two years and four months, Kory Lydon returned this month to the Town of Duxbury as town treasurer. Lydon had served Duxbury as assistant treasurer for five years prior to coming to Rochester.

In a related vote, Diana Knapp, the town's payroll administrator, will serve as Rochester's interim treasurer on a part-time basis through the January 1-7 work week.

The original agreement designated Knapp the assistant treasurer, but Cannon told the board that the bank was not comfortable with that term. "It's belt and suspenders for me," said Cannon, who openly considered it less of a hassle to ask the Select Board to revise its terminology than to argue with the bank.

Knapp's term as interim treasurer will expire when McLaughlin starts.

In his Town Administrator's Report, Cannon publicly thanked the town's Department of Public Works, Facilities Manager and Highway Department for its part in responding to storm damage sustained on December 18.

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from Eversource, but our crews (did a great job)," said Cannon.

Select Board Chairman Paul Ciaburri was less diplomatic in referring to the "horrible response" from Eversource.

"This storm, they dropped the ball big time," he said. "The portal they're using now had the damage on Route 105 as being fixed. It wasn't even touched. They didn't even have the tree out of the road."

Ciaburri twice noted that Eversource had responded well in prior storms and said he spoke to the company's representatives on December 19.

"The last few years they've done a pretty good job with tree trimming," he said but restated that, "when (the residents) really needed them, they were gone."

In other news emanating from Cannon's report to the board, the Rochester Highway Department is the recipient of a Chapter 90 (state) grant in the amount of $190,000 to be used in survey work.

The Council on Aging Senior Center on Dexter Lane has a new custodian, Paul Santos, who will work 15 hours per week. Cleaning needs beyond what Santos can provide in those part-time hours will be hired out.

The Town of Marion will host a Tri-Town Select Board meeting on Tuesday, January 9, at 7:00 pm at the Music Hall on Front Street across from Island Wharf.

Cannon told the board he met with tri-town town administrators to discuss a broadband, infrastructural grant that will not require matching funds but will presumably enable the towns to identify where their signal deficiencies are. The Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) will also participate.

Cannon outlined a tentative schedule of Select Board meetings for the 2024 winter, starting with Tuesday, January 2. He suggested the possibility of a short meeting in the days before the Special Town Meeting scheduled for January 22 at Rochester Memorial School.

The board intends to meet on Monday February 5 and possibly on February 20, on March 4 and March 18, on April 1, and on May 15.

The board entered executive session pursuant to Open Meeting Law (Chapter 30, Section 21(a)(2)) to conduct strategy in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and did not return to open session.

The next meeting of the Rochester Select Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 2, at 6:00 pm at the Senior Center on Dexter Lane.



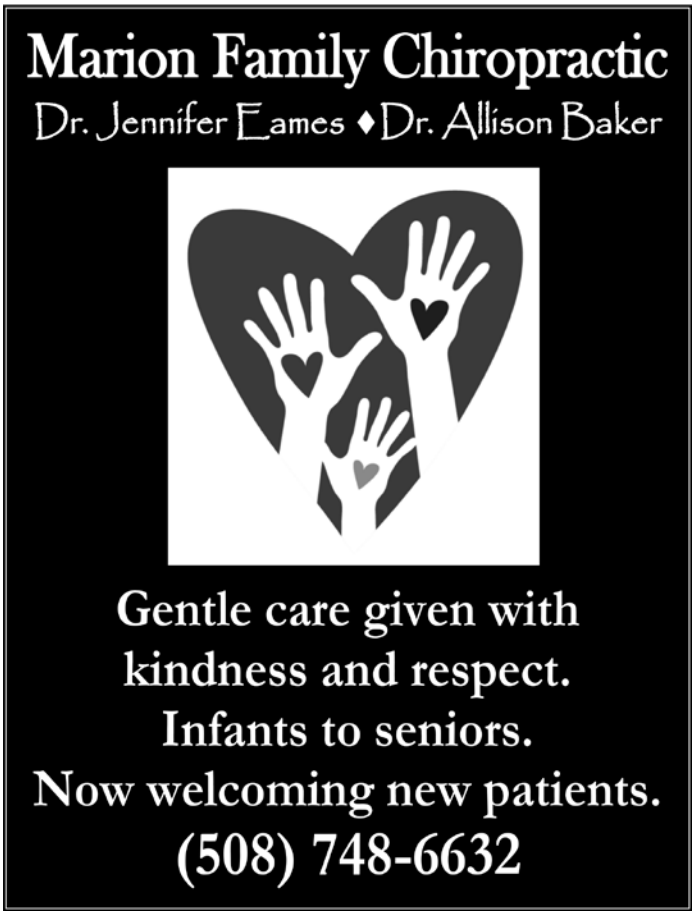
Deep Dives Key Budget Strategy

Marion Finance Committee

By Mick Colageo

While Chairman Shay Assad made it explicitly clear that every member of the Marion Finance Committee is invited to participate in every aspect of the





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town's budget discussion, he introduced a strategy aimed at minimizing the possibility that the committee could miss something important.

In explaining the workings of the committee to four new members on December 6, Assad said he has asked particular members to take deep dives, dividing their efforts to every important section within the budget "so that we've got at least one or two members who are intimately familiar with all the detail, rather than simply having (a department head) come and make a presentation that night.

"It's not like we're trying to pigeon-hole people into certain sections, but we found that we get a better rapport with department heads, for example, like somebody's got to look at the revenues for the town, and sit down with the finance director and understand, okay, where are we with all our revenues? ... Why did we project what we projected?"

Assad divided budget categories by Fire and Police departments, the Department of Public Works, Water/Sewer, and schools.

"I've spent the last three years – and Bill Marvel has been part of that – looking at the schools, and we have kind of changed things a little bit," said Assad, alluding to a former lack of transparency in the budget process and the tri-town finance committees' frustration. "We had a really poor relationship with the (Marion) School Committee and with the schools, we really did. And it was more of an inquisition than it was working as stewards of a town and trying to understand … I think people all had their best interests certainly, but it was not productive."

Assad's concerted effort toward that end coincided with new administration at Old Rochester, where Superintendent Mike Nelson and Assistant in charge of Finance Howie Barber became the district's key stakeholders.

Greater transparency was eventually achieved, and the process became more of a partnership. Even so, Assad anticipates a difficult budget process for the ORR District, especially given adverse effects of remote education during the COVID-19 pandemic. He told the committee that many children are on individual education plans as a result.

"Our role isn't to set the requirements for the town," Assad explained. "In the past … we stepped back and forth in arguing more about requirements than about … do we have the wherewithal to afford what it is that the town wants to do? … Our principal role is to recommend to the townspeople should they or should they not accept certain financial articles. That's what our responsibility is."

Assad identified the statewide decline in enrollment as a key issue but said the FinCom works as a financial advisor to the school committees, the voting bodies. Assad clarified that FinCom's role is not to vote on

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the school budget but to decide if the town can afford that budget.

Jay Pateakos, Assad pointed out, served on the school committee and is an example of expertise that the committee can draw upon when it comes together to discuss the information revealed in any designee's deep dive into a particular department's budget. Assad also clarified that he is not trying to establish liaisons to departments. The job is to get the information.

"And we're looking at, like each budget you're looking at 'under 2 percent increase,'" said Pateakos. "So usually, when the budgets get over 2 percent, that's when we start getting to work on why is it higher than 2 percent. … I think the schools did a great job last year. Sippican was under 2 percent, which is the first time I think I've seen that in a long time."

"They're hurting this year, though," said Assad, referencing the high cost of special education.

"Special (Education) is probably the best example. We just have to pay, we have no choice," said Pateakos.

New member Shawn Healy volunteered to accompany Assad in the school budget process.

Pateakos also warned the new members attending the December 6 meeting that the Capital Improvements Planning Committee meets weekly for 6-8 weeks and is a job for a retired committee member. Fred Mock had already volunteered to sit on the CIPC. Assad anticipates $100,000,000 in total projected proposals under the consideration of the CIPC.

In general, this is the calm before the storm for the Finance Committee. Assad noted that Town Administrator Geoff Gorman is interviewing department heads and getting his comprehensive house in order before the FinCom begins its analysis of each department's requests for FY25.

"It starts to get hot in the kitchen in January. … Basically, Geoff is expecting to get his budgets from town departments in the next week," said Assad, explaining that Gorman's discussions with department heads will culminate in several meetings with the Finance Committee beginning in mid-January and lasting through the first week in March.




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At the start of the meeting, Assad welcomed four new members to the committee.

Tom Crowley, a Tabor Academy graduate … went to the Naval Academy in 1974 and had been working for the Navy as a civilian up until about two years ago. "I moved back to the town in the spring, look forward to contributing."

Healy moved to Marion in 2021 but noted that his wife is from Rochester. They have four children, the older two attending Sippican Elementary School. Healy has a background in financial services and worked at Putnam for 15 years and has an MBA in Finance and is a member of the CFA Society in Boston.

Michael Sudofsky, a 22-year Marion resident, told the committee he started at Case Western University and worked as an engineer in Germany building plastic products, then imported products to the U.S. He owns a couple of commercial properties in Marion and is "very involved in the village." Like Healy, he lives on Front Street.

Dave Herron moved to Marion in 2016 after



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"14 years exiled in Chicago." He worked in the Chicago Stock Exchange and in the financial-services industry for Charles Schwab and later Fidelity Investments.

"It's great to have a full committee," said Assad, who noted that Gorman and Select Board representative Toby Burr were unable to attend because they were attending a CIPC meeting being held simultaneously.

The next meeting of the Marion Finance Committee is scheduled for Wednesday January 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Town House conference room.

Dexter Road Embankment Solved

Marion Conservation Commission

By Mick Colageo

Stephen and Jane McCarthy were issued an Amended Order of Conditions for their proposed house reconstruction at 43 Dexter Road during the December 13 meeting of the Marion Conservation Commission.

The embankment at the site was a sticking point in the continued public hearing, when their representative, Dave Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc., said the retaining wall can be rotated so that the changed to the required 1-to-1 slope would not make the revision more injurious to the conditions.

Commission Chairman Jeff Doubrava had questioned the manner in which the slope would achieve its required grade, reiterating his concern that the altered slope not become more impactful. Conservation Agent Doug Guey-Lee shared Doubrava's concern.

In making his motion, commissioner Emil Assing amended his initial motion that the stone embankment structure maintain a 1-on-1 slope as stated on the site plan and that it not further encroach on the beach side of the house. He also listed several conditions leveraging a strong management of stormwater runoff.

The commission issued an Order of Conditions to the Robert Glenn Seiple Trust for residential pier-facility improvements at 53 Piney Point Road.

Project representative Dave Davignon of Schneider, Davignon & Leone, Inc., described a complicated pier reconstruction around and atop somewhat-unstable boulders. Davignon said that Marion Harbormaster Adam Murphy was consulted, that Murphy told the commission he would look at the project and the Weweantic project also designed by Davignon, but Davignon said he had no comments from Murphy.

Likewise, the commission voted to issue Weweantic Realty Trust an Order of Conditions for similar work at 312 Delano Road. The application had been approved for improvements four or five years ago, according to Davignon, who explained that the last two steel posts holding up the last two sections of the pier, rebuild the walkway.

The 8x20-foot float would be expanded to 10x20 and be moved seaward and its bottom-anchor-chain system replaced by piles and an electric-powered, hydraulic system operating from above. The chains will remain for dual use.

The commission voted to issue 133 Wareham Road, LLC, an Order of Conditions for the construction of a 45x35-foot commercial building with associated parking, drainage, utilities and grading at the corner of Route 6 and Point Road. The area is approximately 15,295 square feet (23.5 acres) and is located in a flood zone. The building will be used by an aesthetician and associated spa workers.

Conditions include the management of runoff with hay bales on the site and management of slope. The owners will be responsible for any maintenance of the stormwater-management system.

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Kent Bennett, Six Point Road LLC, was issued an Order of Conditions to construct a wood deck around an existing house and reconfigured in-ground pool location, spa, patio area and gravel driveway with associated planting areas in a mapped Flood Zone VE at 6 Point Road.

Commissioner Matt Schultz conditioned the order with the requirement of an additional minimum of 20 feet of floatation fencing or 10 hay bales and that the pool discharge into a dry well.

The commissioners voted a three-year extension to the long-held permit as filed by Alewives Anonymous, the volunteer organization cleaning up the Sippican River from County Road to Dogget's Brook to keep the river passable for herring migration.

The Marion Conservation Commission was scheduled to meet on December 27 and is next scheduled to meet on Wednesday, January 3, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Police Station.

Public Input Key to Plan

Rochester Master Plan

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester is updating its plans on two fronts and wants the public's input.

Right now, a survey on the town website is seeking input on its Hazard Mitigation Plan, which, as Town Planner Nancy Durfee describes in a press release, "enables municipalities to identify risks and vulnerabilities associated with natural disasters and develop long-term strategies for protecting people and property from future hazard events."

The Town of Rochester and the Southeastern Regional Planning & Economic Development District (SRPEDD) are also inviting public feedback via its second community workshop on updating the town's circa 2009 Master Plan on Thursday, January 25, 2024. from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Council on Aging, 67 Dexter Lane.

Durfee explained that both the Master and the Hazard Mitigation plans should interconnect and blend together, "so there are no conflicting actions … a cohesive plan," she said.



She answers the question of why public feedback is so important to both these plans without hesitation. "The Master Plan is only as good as the input that's provided," she said, identifying community response as the most important component of a Master Plan because the plan affects every aspect of their lives. "It's important for people to be engaged in this process. … Their input will help guide our decisions."

Durfee said the four topics on the January 25 Master Plan workshop's agenda will be Land Use, Housing, Economic Development, and Transportation. The presentation will be followed by an "open house" style workshop. SRPEDD representatives will be on hand to assist with gathering input on each topic.

Rochester's first Master Plan workshop, held on October 3, was well attended, she Durfee, and it proved to be a good opportunity to get the community's point of view on what needs to be addressed. She said the town learned the public's concerns about the town's water resources and open space. Municipal officials learned, for example, that residents want better access to the town's open spaces, for walking trails and other passive recreation, such as at Haskell Swamp.

Under Massachusetts law, a recognized Master Plan will include nine essential components: goals and policies; land use; housing; economic development; natural and cultural resources; open space and recreation; public services and facilities; circulation and



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transportation; and implementation. The next workshop after January 25, 2024, likely will be held in February 2024.

Durfee explained that all the input that the workshops collect will provide the town the guidance for the action plans in the new Master Plan.

"In the end, the community will have to adopt the Master Plan and the activities being put forth in it," she said. "The 2009 Master Plan is out of date. Life has changed. Back then, the town was struggling with management of subdivisions. Now it's solar-farm development. The (Master) plan needs to change to remain viable. These workshops are an opportunity to educate people on topics of their concern, with a better understanding of those concerns. And we will learn, too, when we hear their feedback."

She said preregistration is not required to attend the January 25, 2024, workshop, but for more information visit townofrochestermass.com/planning-board or srpedd.org/comprehensive-planning/community-master-plans/rochester-master-plan.

House Approved at Former Site of Water Office

Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals

By Marilou Newell

Dr. Allan Pineda's filing for a Special Permit for property owned at 33 Church Street, across the street from his residence at 15 North Street, was finally heard by the Zoning Board of Appeals on December 21.

There had been a slight delay since the application was received due to processes that dealt with whether or not the Conservation Commission needed to rule on the proposed construction project first. With that point resolved and the project as specified conditioned by the commission, it was the ZBA's turn.

Representing Pineda was Andrew Stackpole of Field Engineering. Also present was the architect, Stephen Kelleher.

Plans include a new, single-family residence with a front porch and rear deck. Stackpole said that final lot coverage would be 29% with the westerly setback at 12 feet and the rear at 30. He pointed out that the setback for the existing, non-conforming, former office building was only on one side. He also pointed out that undersized lots are rather the norm in the village, a point challenged by Attorney Daniel Perry representing abutters on the westerly corner.

Resident Pat Donoghue questioned how small village lots could support redevelopment and expressed concern that allowing lots heretofore non-conforming could be seen as viable building lots. "I'm concerned with overcrowding in the village," she stated.

Building Inspector David Riquinha explained that new lots were required to meet the current zoning setbacks and other requirements but that lots with structures did not have to meet newer zoning rules because, "…at the time it was constructed it was

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accepted."

The structure in question at 33 Church Street is the town's former Water Department office. Perry said it didn't meet the definition of a residence, was in fact a business and therefore didn't enjoy exception from current rules.

Perry said the application was not a Special Permit but a Variance. He quoted case law from other jurisdictions that agreed, since the structure was a business, it couldn't be treated as a residence now ("… only existing homes are protected."). He said the ZBA, "has no legal authority to grant a Special Permit."

Riquinha read from bylaws that disagreed with Perry's interpretation. He returned several times to the point that the bylaws allow such a filing. He said it wasn't necessary to go outside the bylaw to resolve the matter, arguing that case law wasn't necessary. Riquinha said, "… any alterations only need a Special Permit, it doesn't matter that it is an office building." He said it was a matter of right.

Pineda rose to speak. He explained that his extended family has grown, making overnight visiting under one roof impossible in his North Street home. "I think this is a positive for the town," he said.

The public hearing was closed when further input from the public ended. Chairman Susan Akin thought the project fit into the neighborhood. Member Colby Rotler noted that the Master Plan spoke to the issue of the town needing more housing.

Member Tony Transflaglia stated, "I was a hard no," but after hearing arguments believed the project was not detrimental to the neighborhood.

The Special Permit was unanimously approved. The public has 20 days to appeal the decision.

In other business, a Variance was granted to Dennis Mahoney for property located at 20 County Road for the construction of a small addition for dry storage associated with a restaurant under construction now.

The next meeting of the Mattapoisett Zoning Board of Appeals will be posted if hearings are set.

Hobby Barn Composition a Concern

Rochester Historic District Commission

By Michael J. DeCicco

Rochester's Historic District Commission on December 20 reviewed revisions to a plan to construct a hobby barn for collectible cars at 0 New Bedford Road and generally liked what they saw.

The original plan for the parcel, which is within the town's historic district, was a single 100x200 square-foot, pre-engineered, metal building to house both a barn to store the vehicles and a shop to restore them.

The new plan presented on December 20 by property owner Ashley Briggs and Jason Maurer of Cape Building Systems splits the proposal into two buildings facing each other, a 9,000 square-foot shop and an 11,200

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square-foot car storage barn.

"We want to make sure our plans are heading in the right direction," Briggs said, explaining the new plan will create "a smaller mass" because the two purposes are now in separate buildings.

She added that both buildings will be single-story. An observatory in a silo-type structure would feature a telescope. A small car lift would be placed in the shop building.

"We are hoping to preserve the existing landscape and trees and keep in harmony with the existing site," Briggs said.

Maurer then said what became the board's main concern. He said the planners are considering metal siding in a dark shade that will blend with the historic district's style. Board member Sara Johnson said if the board approves metal siding in the historic district for this project, it would set a bad precedent. Any future project would be able to request a metal structure.

Commission Chairman Matt Monteiro also emphasized that this is the one aspect that may be the problem with approving the plan for the historic district. The commission has approved vinyl siding for district structures and metal only for agricultural use, over which the commission technically has no jurisdiction.

Briggs asked what the planner's next step should be. More detailed plans for the Planning Board? Or more detailed plans for the commission? They don't want to move forward on a plan that another board would ultimately reject, she said.

Monteiro said the order of which board approves the plan doesn't matter. Both have to agree on the ultimate plan.

Briggs then admitted that what probably comes first will be special permit variance that the project needs and the state's environmental review, followed by more specific plans that town boards will be able to review.

The commission concluded with words of encouragement. Johnson said she felt the plan changes were going in the right direction, "pending real, more specific drawings. It feels like the buildings will fit in with the community." Board member Theodore Brillon said the new plan was a vast improvement.

The Rochester Historic District Commission adjourned without scheduling a future meeting date.

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To Mattapoisett Selectboard, Mattapoisett Town Administrator Mike Lorenco;

Regarding the December 13 Tree Committee meeting, I want to thank Mike Lorenco and Jodi Bauer for their attendance and the Sippican News and The Wanderer for their coverage. At our meeting the loss of mature shade trees and financial impact of the project were discussed, among many other things. I hope that a future Town public meeting will be held in the next month and recorded specifically to inform residents and taxpayers about the other issues impacting the Village Roads Project: utilities, tree removals and protection, harbor water quality protection plans, process, et cetera.

I understand the project was initiated back in 2013 and received widespread attention in 2017 and 2018 when VHB engineers were hired to lead the Town through a complicated and restrictive State DOT-TIP process. My research suggests that the last public meetings for the project were in 2018. We've missed an estimated 2022 construction timetable. As Selectboard noted in their September 12, 2023 meeting, aspects of the proposal changed significantly in the 2023 round of DOT reviews. Therefore it will be a good thing for the residents to be given the broad picture of a DOT funded reconstruction project looking back and forward prior to the DOT hearing.

At DOT required public hearings residents are encouraged to state their pro/con opinions to help DOT decide if a specific project should go forward. I understand a two week period follows a hearing so residents may send written opinion after hearing presentations.

The Town is at year 10 trying to get a competitive state grant which is estimated to be funded in 2026. Will that target date hold? Meanwhile we've already reconstructed 1.5 miles of Village roads using municipal bonds- while staying sensitive to Town character.

In closing, the December Tree Committee meeting was a small step in the right direction. In the words of one of the citizens attending the meeting, "I had no idea that this project was moving forward again with important decisions being made during the recent Select Board meetings, so shame on me." A public hearing in late January is a perfect time for many more citizens to learn about the current plans and understand the impact on the town we love, Mattapoisett.

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Machacam Club

The next meeting of the Machacam Club is scheduled for Wednesday, January 3, 2024. Chief Colby is planning another wholesome meal for us. We meet at the American Legion Eastman Post on Depot Street. Doors open at 5pm for social time followed by dinner at 6pm. Our speaker program begins at 6:45. New members are always welcome. Please contact Chuck at cwmccullough@comcast.net with questions.

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January Events in the Mattapoisett Children's Room

As the New Year unfolds, get ready for exciting new events and the comeback of your favorite activities at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library Children's Room.

On Wednesday, **January 10** at 11 am, join us as we explore mindfulness with our littles. Mindfulness is beneficial for children as it helps them develop self-awareness, emotional regulation, and the ability to stay present in the moment. At this program, we will do some simple mindfulness exercises, read a story, and play a game. Recommended for ages 3 and up. Registration is required.

On Thursday, **January 11** at 3:30pm, a community favorite returns, the no-sew pillow. This year we will be creating a No-Sew Snowman Pillow. Join us for this simple craft, recommended for ages 5 and up. Registration is required.

Our storytimes will restart with the return of Winter Storytime and the start of a new Baby Storytime. Winter Storytime for all ages will take place on Thursday mornings at 10:30am starting on Thursday, **January 18**. Baby Storytime for ages 0 to 24 months will take place on Friday mornings at 10:30 Aam starting on Friday, **January 19**. No registration required.

Our Graphic Novel Book Club will take place on Friday, **January 19** at 3:30pm and they will be discussing Ghost Book by Remy Lai. Books are available at the library prior to the event. Recommended for ages 9 and up. Registration is required.

Students in grades 3 to 6 are invited to register for our annual Quahog Book Award program starting on Tuesday, **January 9**. Keep an eye out for more information coming soon.

All programs are free and open to the public. If you have any questions, concerns, or need any special accommodations, please contact Michelle Skaar at mskaar@sailsinc.org or by calling the library.

New Year Classes at the Marion Art Center

Instructor Lisa Elliott will teach a new session of Weaving on a Rigid Heddle Loom on Sunday afternoons from 1:00-3:30 pm in the MAC Studio, **January 7-February**

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4. Have you ever wanted to try weaving but not sure where to begin? In five short weeks, you can learn a new fiber skill and take home your very first woven project. Students will weave one of the following: a scarf, table runner, set of placemats, or set of tea towels. Looms and weaving equipment are provided for a $10 fee, but students can provide their own loom. Students will provide their own yarns. The cost is $150 for MAC members and $160 for nonmembers, and the class is limited to six students. Register at marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Two new eight week sessions of All Levels Watercolor Painting for Adults starts on **January 18 and 19**. Instructor Jay Ryan will teach a two-hour class on Thursday mornings from 10 am-12 pm, and he will offer a three-hour eight week course on Friday mornings from 9:30 am-12:30 pm. The cost for the Thursday class is $195 for MAC members and $225 for nonmembers, while the Friday class costs $295 for MAC members and $325 for nonmembers. Each class has a one-day drop-in option ($30 for Thursday, $45 for Friday) for those who can't commit to the entire session or would like to get in some extra studio time with the instructor. Learn more and register online at marionartcenter.org/adult-classes.

Registration is open for the winter session of MAC Dance Academy. Instructor Tess Hedblom and Program leader Teah Keogh will offer a 5-week winter session with Preschool and Beginner classes (ages 3-8)

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Sunday 12noon-8pm	Sunday 12noon-9:30pm	Sunday 12noon-9pm	Sunday 12noon-9:30pm
Monday - Closed		Monday - Closed	

Local Cable Programming

ORCTV

Check www.orctv.org for the latest updates to the schedule.

PUBLIC ACCESS
Comcast Channel 9
Verizon Channel 36

Thursday December 28, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Cape Conversations
8:30 AM You and Your Health
9:00 AM A Conversation With...
9:30 AM Pete on the Street
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Pine Meadow Alpaca Farms Animal Education
11:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:30 AM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Two Tones with George Lopes
2:00 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Ed and Rose Ann Lopes
3:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Black Bear Ecology
4:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
5:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
5:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global US
6:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
6:30 PM Tri-Town TV
7:00 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
7:30 PM This is America & The World
8:00 PM Money Matters TV
8:30 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:00 PM Lamb of God Christian Church
10:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Blue October
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Friday December 29, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Bulldog Sports Show
8:30 AM Living & Learning with Disabilities
9:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
11:00 AM Cape Conversations
11:30 AM A Conversation With...
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Sidewalks Entertainment
1:30 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
2:30 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
3:00 PM Two Grannies on the Road
3:30 PM This is America and the World
4:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
4:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
5:00 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM Sippican Choral Society - Christmas Concert
8:00 PM Sippican Historical Society - Celebrating the Archive with Leslie Thayer Piper
9:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Saturday December 30, 2023
6:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartoon Festival
9:00 AM Health Source
9:30 AM Two Grannies on the Road
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM A Conversation With...
11:00 AM Auto Sense
11:30 AM Science 360
12:00 PM Mid-Day Movie
1:30 PM Sippican Historical Society Oral History - Ed and Rose Ann Lopes
2:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
3:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltowitz
3:30 PM South Coast Matters
4:00 PM The Jeannine Hunt Experience
4:30 PM Marion Natural History Museam - Black Bear Ecology
5:00 PM ORR Volleyball vs Dennis Yarmouth
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
8:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Conflict Zone
8:30 PM Sippican Historical Society - Celebrating the Archive with Leslie Thayer Piper
10:00 PM Two Tones with George Lopes
10:30 PM Let's Talk Business
11:00 PM Classic Movies

Sunday December 31, 2023
6:00 AM Health Source
6:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
7:00 AM Lamb of God Christian Church
8:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
9:00 AM First Congregational Church of Rochester
10:00 AM St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church of Marion
11:00 AM Sippican Memorial Rededication
11:30 AM Tri-Town TV
11:50 AM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
1:30 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
2:00 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:30 PM MarionVeterans Day Ceremony
3:00 PM Bulldog Sports Show
3:30 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
4:00 PM Fur, Fins and Feathers
4:30 PM The World Fusion Show
5:00 PM Rochester Historical Society - Historical Maps of Rochester
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
7:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
7:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
8:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Euromaxx
8:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Conflict Zone
9:00 PM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
9:30 PM Jazz Jam at the Marion Arts Center
11:00 PM Beacon Hill Report
11:30 PM Classic Movies

Monday January 1, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Reeing: The Movie Review Show
9:30 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:00 AM A Conversation With...
10:30 AM Cape Conversations
11:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
11:30 AM Tri-Town TV
12:00 PM What's Linda Cooking?
12:30 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:00 PM In the Toy Box
1:30 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:00 PM Southcoast Matters
2:30 PM The Collective Chat
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
4:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
4:30 PM Jazz Jam at the Marion Art Center
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
7:30 PM Marion Veterans Day Ceremony
8:00 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
8:30 PM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 PM Let's Talk Business
9:30 PM Building the Future
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Tuesday January 2, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:00 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
9:00 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
9:30 AM The Collective Chat
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe
10:30 AM Mike Paige Doodle Club
11:00 AM Saturday Morning Cartooning
11:30 AM In the Toy Box
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Miss New Bedford Insider
2:00 PM The Human Truth with Chuck McIntyre
2:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Tomorrow and Today
3:00 PM Deutsche Welle - Focus on Europe
3:30 PM Deutsche Welle - Global 3000
4:00 PM Marion Natural History Museum - Black Bear Ecology
5:30 PM Tri-Town TV
6:00 PM Marion Art Center - The Importance of Being Earnest
8:40 PM The Beacon Hill Report
9:10 PM Falmouth Academy Community Series
10:00 PM Gay USA
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

Wednesday January 3, 2023
7:00 AM Seniorcize
7:30 AM Deutsche Welle - In Good Shape
8:30 AM For Your Health
9:00 AM Two Grannies on the Road
9:30 AM Reeling: The Movie Review Show
10:00 AM The Curious Giraffe Show
10:30 AM Sidewalks Entertainment
11:00 AM Mattapoisett Congregational Church
12:00 PM Tri-Town TV
12:20 PM Christmas in the Tri-Town
12:30 PM What's Linda Cooking?
1:00 PM Cooking Healthy with Coastline
1:30 PM Southcoast Matters TV
2:00 PM Pine Meadow Alpaca Farms Animal Education
2:10 PM Mattapoisett Harbor Days
2:30 PM Money Talk Tuesday
3:00 PM A Conversation With...
3:30 PM Music Monday's with Houston Bernard
4:00 PM Paltrocast with Darren Paltrowitz
4:30 PM Tri-County Symphonic Band - Christmas Concert
5:30 PM Building the Future
6:00 PM Tri-Town TV
6:30 PM The World Fusion Show
7:00 PM Let's Talk Business
7:30 PM Sippican Choral Society - Christmas Concert
9:00 PM ORR Football vs Attleboro
11:00 PM Democracy Now!

MARION GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 39
Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Marion Board of Selectmen
7:30 AM Marion Conservation Commission
9:30 AM Marion Planning Board
11:00 AM Marion Zoning Board of Appeals
12:00 PM Marion School Committee
1:00 PM Marion Finance Committee
2:00 PM Marion Open Space Acquisition Commission
2:30 PM Marion Affordable Housing Trust
3:30 PM Marion Board of Health
4:00 PM Marion Marine Resource Commission
4:30 PM ORR School Committee
6:00 PM Marion Finance Committee
7:00 PM Marion Conservation Commission
8:30 PM Marion Board of Selectmen
10:30 PM Marion Planning Board

ROCHESTER GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 40
Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Rochester Board of Selectmen
7:30 AM Rochester Planning Board
9:00 AM Rochester Conservation Commission
10:00 AM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
10:30 AM Rochester School Committee
11:30 AM ORR School Committee
1:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee
3:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
3:30 PM Rochester Planning Board
5:00 PM Rochester Conservation Commission
6:00 PM Rochester Zoning Board of Appeals
6:30 PM Rochester School Committee
7:30 PM ORR School Committee
9:00 PM ORR Joint School Committee
11:00 PM Rochester Board of Selectmen
11:30 PM Rochester Planning Board

EDUCATION CHANNEL
Comcast Channel 8
Verizon Channel 37
Daily Schedule

7:00 AM Bulldog Sports Show
7:30 AM Bulldog Weekly
8:00 AM ORRHS Holiday Concert
10:00 AM RMS Holiday Concert
11:00 AM Center School Holiday Concert
12:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
12:30 PM Bulldog Sports Show
1:00 PM ORR Unified Basketball vs Tri-Town Police
2:00 PM ORR Football vs Somerset Berkley
4:00 PM ORR Football vs Fairhaven
6:00 PM Bulldog Weekly
6:30 PM Bulldog Sports Show
7:00 PM ORR Girls Soccer vs Falmouth
8:30 PM ORR Football vs Attleboro
10:30 PM ORR Volleyball vs Dighton Rehoboth
11:30 PM ORR Theater Class

MATTAPOISETT GOVERNMENT
Comcast Channel 26
Verizon Channel 38



beginning **January 8**. The cost is $105 for MAC members and $120 for nonmembers. The 10-week spring session begins **March 4** and costs $205 for MAC members and $235 for nonmembers. The age group for the spring session may be extended to include an intermediate class. All classes meet for half an hour on Monday afternoons. MAC Dance Academy is a low-key, low-cost dance program geared toward girls and boys ages 3+. To learn more, see the full schedule for both sessions, and to register, visit marionartcenter.org/mac-dance-academy.

Chuck's Fantasia - Artwork by Chuck McIntyre

From the neuro-divergent mind of Mattapoisett resident Chuck McIntyre comes an exhibit called Chuck's Fantasia. It can be viewed at the Mattapoisett Free Public Library from **January 2 to 31**. Chuck considers himself an abstract surrealist although he creates landscapes and portraits as well. His acrylics are based on various themes such as emotions, states of mind, and identity. He feels his imagination and passion lead him to producing canvases the audience can be wowed by and appreciative of. Free and open to all.

Great Decisions Program

The Mattapoisett Woman's Club is offering their Great Decisions 2024 Program. The program begins on **January 17**, the third Wednesday for eight

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TriTown Happenings





Jack Bell plays the saxophone solo, and local children sing "Jingle Bells" and "The Twelve Days Before Christmas" during Saturday's annual Tinkhamtown Chapel Singalong. Photos courtesy Robert Price



Joe Jacintho (Fairhaven), Jean Fuller Gest (Marion), Bette-Jean and Bruce Rocha (Mattapoisett), Deb and Mike Dahill (Mattapoisett) visit with renown tobacco farmer, Montesino, at his farm in Vinales, Cuba where he produces cigars for Cohiba. Nov. 8, 2023. Photo courtesy Deb Dahill

If you would like to share your travel photos with our readers too? All you have to do is take along a copy of **The Wanderer** *(or your favorite aardvark) and submit your photos by email to: news@wanderer.com. You can also drop photos off at our office at 55 County Road (Route 6) in Mattapoisett.*



A look at the new 5G cell-phone tower on High Street in Rochester. Private customers and public-safety officials will experience improved reception in the northeast part of town. Photo by Mick Colageo

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com

consecutive weeks, ending Wednesday **March 6**, and 2024. The program meets from 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm at The Mattapoisett Public Free Library, on 7 Barstow Street, Mattapoisett, MA, downstairs in the Community Room. Please enter at the side door where there is accessibility with an elevator. The topics are very current and full of global affairs based on international issues. We watch a 20 minute DVD session that corresponds with the reading.

Some of the topics include US & China trade rivalry, Climate Technology and competition and NATO's future.

The program is open to all community members on a first come basis. The Zoom platform is also available.

To register: Please send a check for $40.00. Mattapoisett Woman's Club Box1444 Mattapoisett MA 02739 Attn: Treasurer (memo on check Great Decisions) on a separate paper please print with your Name, Address, Email address, Phone Number (both landline and cell # if available) for the records.

Thank you for your interest in our organization.

From the Files of the Rochester Historical Society

By Connie Eshbach

One of the stops on our last summer's scavenger hunt was the stone arch bridge. Finding the bridge was probably the biggest challenge on the list unless you've participated in the Rochester Memorial Day River Race. While several large rocks and our many stone walls get the most attention, the rock arch bridge is a bit of an architectural wonder.

Arch bridges are defined as structures that span a gap by using a curved shape that supports the bridge and its load. The Romans were the first to get into extensively building



arched bridges. It is the arch that gives the bridge its strength but they can be tricky to build. The hardest part of building the bridge is the arch as the two parts of the structure have no structural integrity until they meet in the middle.

Stone arch bridges are quite rare and were made without the use of any mortar. The Rochester arch bridge is near what was once the Rounseville Sawmill. I was unable to find an approximate date for when it was built but suffice it to say, it's old.

In the late 1970's, the area was in the grip of a drought severe enough to dry up the river that once fed the sawmill. In one of the museum's scrapbooks is a picture of George White, a former Mattapoisett selectman, standing on the dry riverbed beside the bridge. He was

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Movie Review

The Year in Movies

By Rob Gonsalves
www.robsmovievault.com



In 2023 at the movies, perhaps moreso than in many other years, William Goldman's axiom held true and firm: "Nobody knows anything." In 2023, the phenomenon of Barbenheimer got more butts in seats than anyone would have thought; *Barbie* finished at #1 for the year (a slot I don't anticipate any other 2023 movie taking at this point), while *Oppenheimer,* a three-hour, R-rated biopic of a nuclear physicist, will likely cross the line at #5. Would either of them have done as well without the other? Nobody knows. Goldman's Law, of course, means that nobody knows what will work and what will crash and burn (prediction: any pair of dissimilar movies that try to duplicate Barbenheimer will go down in flames).

Much trickier is that some movies would seem to have all the right moves on paper. Then they come out to crickets and yawns. I expected *Mission Impossible 7*, Tom Cruise's follow-up big sequel after *Top Gun 2,* to pack 'em in. Instead it ended up at #13, after *Indiana Jones 5,* which like *MI7* tanked badly domestically in relation to cost. (Both productions were troubled by COVID delays, and *Indy 5* had years of expensive development before Harrison Ford even stepped onto a set.) Meanwhile, *Sound of Freedom* got largely astroturfed (tickets bought in bulk to be gifted to folks who may never have bothered to go see the film) to the number 10 spot. Regardless, it and *Oppenheimer* satisfy two criteria I always look for in these year-end assessments: Neither was made for kids, nor were they sequels or based on existing popular media. (*Oppenheimer* was based on a book, but it's not like that book was *Harry Potter* or something. Nobody, I promise you, said "Ooh, let's go see that movie based on *American Prometheus*!")

Fast X sputtered and stalled out domestically, having to make most of its bingo money overseas. Essentially China, with its 1.4 billion paying customers every studio chases, is the savior of a lot of American movies that Americans seem to have gotten over. 2023 was not a stellar year for Disney in general; almost everything they tried underperformed, but other than *Guardians of the Galaxy 3,* the response to Disney's Marvel shingle showed either the start of superhero fatigue or indifference to the characters and stories taking place after the departures of many OG Marvel favorites. *Ant-Man 3*'s underwhelming take (domestic gross: $214 million; cost: $200 million) raised eyebrows until the stockholders got a load of the reception of *The Marvels*, which at a cost of $275 million racked up a mouth-drying $200 million in ticket sales *worldwide.* Domestically, it made $84 mil — less than *M3GAN,* less than *Equalizer 3,* barely better than *Meg 2.*

The DC Extended Universe movies, operated by Warner, had troubles of their own. The DCEU released its final four movies in 2023, none of which made it to the top ten. *The Flash,* which came with its own public-relations headaches, came the closest at #23 (still a slot below the much cheaper *Scream VI*). DC's other three superhero movies only did worse, if you can imagine. *Shazam 2* died a lonely death, *Blue Beetle* fared only slightly better, and *Aquaman 2* as I write this is *not* having the most encouraging Christmas opening weekend. Much of DC's crisis this year has to do with this iteration of the DC movie universe coming to an end, and DCEU fans' interest along with it, though Warner has *Superman: Legacy* penciled in for a July 2025 release. So, other than the third *Spider-Verse* film, and some movies featuring Spider-Man associates (Madame Web, Venom, Kraven), there's *Deadpool 3* and that's it for superhero movies in 2024. (The writers' and actors' strikes delayed a lot of productions.)

What will studios entice us with next year? There are the sequels: *Dune Part Two, Kung Fu Panda 4, Ghostbusters: Frozen Empire,* another Godzilla/Kong movie, another *Planet of the Apes,* another *Alien,* another *Lord of the Rings* thing, another *Twister,* another *Sonic the Hedgehog,* another *Gladiator* (for real?) … and another *Joker* movie, which we all sorely needed, apparently. There may be some surprises: there's Robert Eggers' *Nosferatu,* and Jordan Peele's typically mystery-shrouded fourth film, and *Beetlejuice 2* might be interesting against all odds, and *Furiosa* has my attention, and Ryan Gosling's Kenergy might be enough to lift his version of *The Fall Guy,* and *Mickey 17* sees Bong Joon-ho returning to science fiction, and Ethan Coen makes his solo debut with *Drive-Away Dolls* … But as for what's going to occupy the *Barbie* spot this time next year, well, nobody knows anything, still.

able to inspect the original bridge of rocks fitted together with no mortar. The cement that he could see sealing the outer sections was done at a later time to stabilize the bridge.

If anyone has any additional information about the bridge, I would like to learn more about it. You can reach me at eshbach2@aol.com or 617 750 2818.

Happy Holidays and Happy New Year from the Rochester Historical Society.

Mariner Youth Soccer

The Mariner Youth Soccer Association's Annual Meeting will be held Tuesday, **January 30** at 7:00 pm at the Fairhaven Council on Aging located at 229 Huttleston Avenue, Fairhaven,

All members are welcome to attend. Any questions should be addressed to: Angela Dawicki, Secretary, angela@marineryouthsoccer.onmicrosoft.com

Call for Entries - Winter Members' Show

The Marion Art Center announces a call for entries for its annual Winter Members' Show. All MAC members are invited to enter up to two pieces each. All works must be original, must have been executed by the artist within the last five years, and must not have been previously shown at the Marion Art Center. The MAC will not exhibit works that are in poor condition (including frame) or are not properly prepared for installation.

To exhibit, members should drop off artwork to the MAC at 80 Pleasant Street, Marion, on Saturday, **January 6** between 10 am-2 pm or Tuesday, **January 9** between 10 am-4 pm. Artists can download and print the consignment agreement ahead of time, found online at marionartcenter.org/on-exhibit. Anyone wishing to participate who is not yet a member can join the MAC online at marionartcenter.org/join. To request an email copy of the contract or submit questions, email info@marionartcenter.org. Show Dates are **January 13 – February 23**, with an opening reception scheduled on Saturday, **January 13** from 3- 5 pm.

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MAC Theater Auditions - Arsenic & Old Lace

The Marion Art Center announces open auditions for the classic Arsenic & Old Lace on Saturday, **January 6**, 10:00 am-12:00 pm and Sunday, **January 7**, 12:00-2:00 pm. The play, written by Joseph Kesserling, will be directed by Donn Tyler. There are nine performance dates scheduled **March 8, 9, 10, 15, 16, 17, 22, 23, 24**. Evening shows begin at 7:30 pm, while Sunday matinees begin at 2:00 pm.

Synopsis: Drama critic Mortimer Brewster's engagement announcement is upended when he discovers a corpse in his elderly aunts' window seat. Mortimer rushes to tell Abby and Martha before they stumble upon the body themselves, only to learn that the two old women aren't just aware of the dead man in their parlor, they killed him. Between his aunts' penchant for poisoning wine, a brother who thinks he's Teddy Roosevelt and another brother using plastic surgery to hide from the police — not to mention Mortimer's own hesitancy about marriage — it'll be a miracle if Mortimer makes it to his wedding. Arsenic and Old Lace is a classic black comedy about the only thing more deadly than poison: family.

View all character details and more information, and download sides (script samples), online at marionartcenter.org/auditions. Questions can be addressed to tyler.donn@gmail.com.

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Tri-town Police Logs

MARION
Log highlights Dec 17-Dec 23
- Sippican Harbor – Waterways hazard
- Mill St – Suspicious person
- Bayview Rd – EMS/medical
- County Rd – Brush fire
- Mill St – EMS/medical
- Washburn Ln – General service
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- County Rd – MV collision
- Spring St – Suspicious activity
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Front St – Suspicious activity
- Front St – Officer wanted
- Point Rd – Follow up investigation
- Mill St – MV collision
- Front St – Health/welfare
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Rt 195 East – MV fire
- Rezendes Ter – EMS/medical
- Mill St - Fraud
- Wareham Rd – Health/welfare
- Point Rd – EMS/medical
- Mill St – Road hazard
- Mill St – Found property
- Spring St – MV collision
- Village Dr – EMS/medical
- Front St – Animal bite
- Wareham Rd – MV collision
- Vine St – Animal complaint
- River Rd – Parking enforcement

MATTAPOISETT
Log highlights Dec 17-Dec 23
- Marion Rd – Suspicious MV
- County Rd – 911 call
- Acushnet Rd – General service
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- Meadowbrook Ln – General service
- Water St – Road hazard
- Angelica Ave – Open door
- Cove St – Assist other agency
- Captain's Ln – General service
- County Rd – Medical assist
- Marion Rd – MV violations
- Industrial Dr – MV crash
- Park St – 911 call
- County Rd – Follow up
- North St – MV violations
- Brandt Island Rd – Follow up
- Acorn Ln – Assist citizen
- Crystal Spring Rd – Restraining order
- Marion Rd – Unwanted person
- Water St – Animal control
- North St - Complaint
- Prince snow Cir – Health/welfare
- Brookside Dr – General service
- Fairhaven Rd – MV violations
- Main St – MV violations
- Prospect Rd – General service
- Shaw St – 911 call
- County Rd – MV crash
- North St – Suspicious MV

ROCHESTER
Log highlights Dec 17-Dec 23
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For a full PDF of the three towns' police logs from the past week, including arrest reports, visit www.Wanderer.com.

Regional Lunch Menus

COASTLINE ELDERLY NUTRITION PROGRAM
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No meal served
Tuesday, Jan 2: Chicken Marsala, parsley mashed potatoes, Tahitian blend vegetable, whole wheat bread, mixed fruit
Wednesday, Jan 3: Hot dog, mustard, baked beans, cabbage & carrots, hotdog roll, applesauce
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, Italian vegetables, dinner roll, pears
Friday, Jan 5: "Catch of the Day" w/pineapple salsa, rice Florentine, green beans, whole wheat bread, banana

CENTER SCHOOL
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Grilled chicken club on hamburger roll, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 3: Whole grain French toast sticks, maple syrup, cheese stick, tator tots
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, garlic breadstick, savory green beans
Friday, Jan 5: Stuffed crust pizza, garden salad, assorted salad dressing, roasted chip peas

OLD HAMMONDTOWN
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Grilled chicken club on hamburger roll, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 3: Whole grain French toast sticks, maple syrup, cheese stick, tator tots
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, garlic breadstick, savory green beans
Friday, Jan 5: Stuffed crust pizza, garden salad, assorted salad dressing, roasted chip peas

OLD ROCHESTER REGIONAL JUNIOR & SENIOR HIGH
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Grilled chicken club on hamburger roll, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 3: Whole grain French toast sticks, maple syrup, cheese stick, tator tots
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, garlic breadstick, savory green beans
Friday, Jan 5: Cheese quesadillas (or) chicken quesadillas, fiesta rice, golden corn, black bean salad

ROCHESTER MEMORIAL
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Grilled chicken club on hamburger roll, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 3: Whole grain French toast sticks, maple syrup, cheese stick, tator tots
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, garlic breadstick, savory green beans
Friday, Jan 5: Stuffed crust pizza, garden salad, assorted salad dressing, roasted chip peas

SIPPICAN SCHOOL
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Grilled chicken club on hamburger roll, oven baked French fries, steamed carrots
Wednesday, Jan 3: Whole grain French toast sticks, maple syrup, cheese stick, tator tots
Thursday, Jan 4: American chop suey, garlic breadstick, savory green beans
Friday, Jan 5: Stuffed crust pizza, garden salad, assorted salad dressing, roasted chip peas

OLD COLONY REGIONAL
Monday, Jan 1: New Year's Day – No school
Tuesday, Jan 2: Dino chicken nuggets, fries & bread
Wednesday, Jan 3: Grilled cheese & chili
Thursday, Jan 4: Build a baked potato
Friday, Jan 5: Assorted pizza

Intro to Acting & Theatre Workshops at the MAC

The Marion Art Center with Watermelon Alligator Theatre Company, and Instructors Garrett Olson and Jess Wilson, present a series of theater workshops including a free informational session on Saturday, **January 20**. Cost for each session is $40 for MAC members and $50 for nonmembers, and those enrolling in all three paid sessions receive 10% off registration. The fourth and final session is free and open to all. A foul weather date is February 10. See all details and register online at marionartcenter.org/events. Attend any or all of the following workshops:

Session One, 10 am-12 pm, Theatre Tips and Tricks: You Want to be in the Theatre but Not on Stage: Do you love theatre, but hate the spotlight? There are lots of ways to be involved besides appearing on stage. In this 2 hour informative workshop you will have a relaxed and casual conversation with experienced theatre professionals. From box office and front of house staff to backstage crew, from designers to marketers to scenic artists to hair & makeup… it takes a lot of people to create the shows you love to applaud. Join us for an introductory look at what goes on "behind the scenes." Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any and all questions regarding all aspects of theatre.

Session Two, 1 pm-3 pm, Theatre Tips and Tricks: You Think You Want to Try Acting: Have you dreamed of being in front of the camera, up on stage or standing in the spotlight? Not sure where to begin? In this 2 hour informative workshop you will get a very basic overview of the first steps, from theatre terms and the difference between stage and film acting to how to get started with headshots, monologues, best audition practices, stage etiquette and self-care. This workshop will be an informative and casual conversation with professional working actors. Join us for an introductory look at "What's next?" so you can turn your dream of acting into reality. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any and all questions regarding acting.

Session Three, 3:30 pm-5:30 pm, The Actor As Advocate: This fast paced, 2-hour master class in self-advocacy and consent-based practices, including intimacy and fight safety is designed to motivate the participants and encourage them to make themselves priority one. Actors need to be safe and confident to do their best work, whether on stage, film set or recording studio and having the tools to be their own best advocate is important. The focus of this workshop is to empower each person to advocate for themselves with confidence, flair and ease. Participants will be brought into an immediate discussion regarding the most common reasons why they may fear speaking up for themselves or others and how to address it head on. The instructors who will be leading the workshop are professional actors, directors, and teaching artists who have many years of experience as advocates

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Artie Leonard, Owner **508-441-0921**
Artie@ReliableSolarSolutions.com
1 Chase Road, E. Freetown

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT CHRISTMAS TREE DISPOSAL

Christmas tree pick-up in the Town of Mattapoisett is scheduled for the 2 weeks of January 2, through January 16, 2024. Christmas trees should be placed curbside by 7:00 am on the day of your regularly scheduled rubbish pick-up. Trees are also accepted at the Transfer Station on Tinkham Hill Rd. Trees in plastic bags or with ornaments will not be picked up. If you have any questions, please contact the Mattapoisett Highway Department at 508 758-4181.

Super Crossword

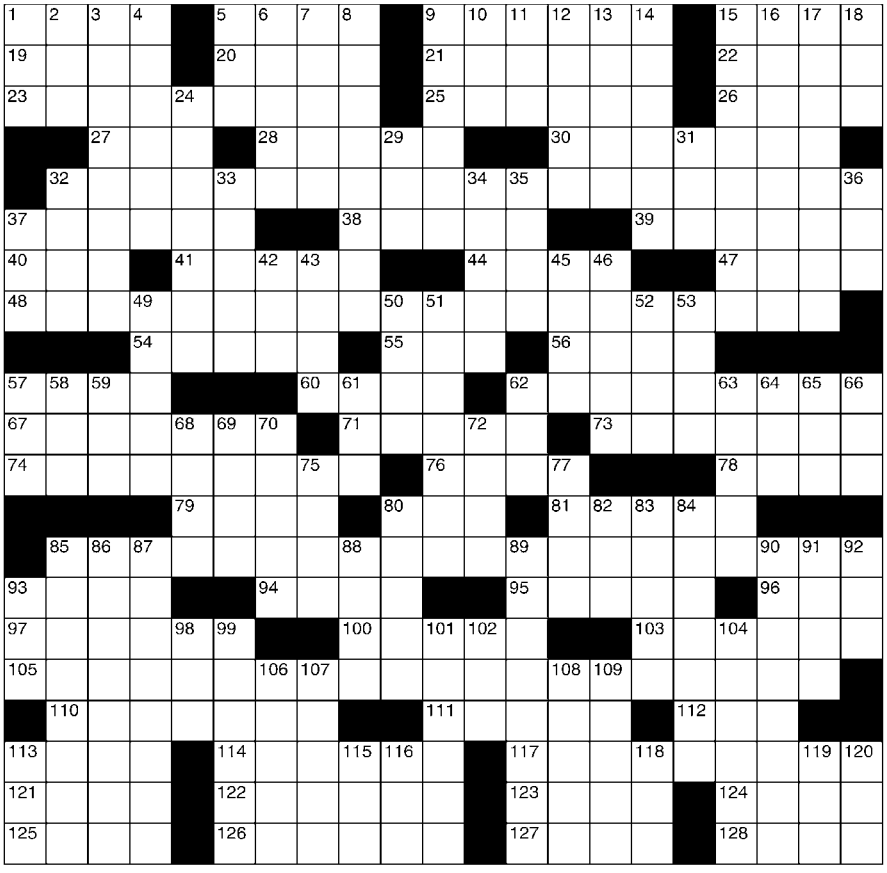
MAKING 20 OUT OF 9

ACROSS

1 Pueblo dweller
5 Sound of an "air kiss"
9 Forensic facility in Quantico, for short
15 Gig hookups
19 Refined finds
20 Civil rights leader Parks
21 In an uncivil way
22 Lawn mower brand
23 Parts of wholes
25 Key related to G major
26 "Jurassic Park" dino
27 "Billions" channel, in brief
28 Some boxing blows
30 Horn blowers
32 Person whose name consists entirely of the letters in 23-Across
37 Los Angeles neighborhood
38 "I knew — along!"
39 Old Nissan brand
40 Stephen of "Angie"
41 Humongous
44 Foot, in verse
47 Tattered
48 Novel whose name consists entirely of the letters in 62-Across
54 Others, in Oviedo
55 Last letter, in Leeds
56 Trig function
57 Arab nation
60 Titanic sinker
62 Didn't type or text, perhaps
67 Relating to an eye layer
71 Corn, to a Brit
73 Neighbor of Latvia
74 Relatives of terraces
76 Silent performer
78 Consumer
79 Coup d'—
80 Attain
81 Exit
85 Film whose name consists entirely of the letters in 74-Across
93 Verve
94 Words of woe
95 Desert haven
96 Sch. founded by Thomas Jefferson
97 December mall temps
100 Consumer
103 Very talented
105 Setups whose name consists entirely of the letters in 117-Across
110 Some legumes
111 Lindsay of "Liz & Dick"
112 Be in debt to
113 Imp Simpson
114 Throat tissue
117 Lawbreaker
121 — fixe
122 Menu offering
123 In — (stuck)
124 Lasting mark
125 Betting info
126 "Mad" Carroll character
127 Some votes in Congress
128 Those folks

DOWN

1 Great athletes are enshrined in it: Abbr.
2 Bobby in the Hockey 1-Down
3 Leguminous side dish
4 Low pelvic bones
5 Hosp. test in a big tube
6 "Mrs. Dalloway" novelist
7 Ed of "Lou Grant"
8 Is trustful
9 Citrusy diet soft drink
10 Idling type
11 Cruel Amin
12 Slower than andante
13 Socially distant
14 Side street
15 Give proof of
16 Novelist Toni
17 Strong-arm
18 Boston Red —
24 This evening
29 Building-blasting stuff
31 Bag-screening org.
32 Gotten sight of
33 Attempter
34 Fibber's admission
35 Cabbage side dish
36 Little hotel
37 Playtex item
42 "Ugly Betty" actress Ortiz
43 Crash-probing agcy.
45 Little plateau
46 Pickle liquid
49 Bubbly mixer
50 Blogging pundit Klein
51 Prescribed diet, say
52 Finishes up
53 Swamp wriggler
57 Round body
58 "Call — taxi"
59 Ocean east of Mass.
61 Inits. on an ambulance
62 Tailor's edge
63 City on the Seine
64 Put- — (jokey pranks)
65 Knot up
66 Part of a jug
68 Yuletide song
69 Opposer
70 Climbing vine
72 Rigatoni's kin
75 Ingrain
77 Filmdom's Kazan
80 Shimmer
82 Golfer Ernie
83 Even up
84 Out-of-towner
85 "Shane" star
86 Teased one another playfully
87 International alliances
88 Harbinger
89 Medieval Scandinavian
90 Group's activity in the community
91 Crooner Burl
92 Frowny-faced
93 Suffix with Vietnam
98 Aesthetic interest
99 Sewing unit
101 Bank job
102 "Neroli" musician Brian
104 Least
106 Maui greeting
107 Contrarian's retort
108 Nile capital
109 Come next
113 Short history
115 Park oneself
116 Cooler cubes
118 Divs. of dollars
119 Scot's turndown
120 Give it a whirl



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SALOME'S STARS

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) The holidays allow you to let your usually downplayed soft side really glow. Don't be surprised to find a Scorpio looking to share the light.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Dress up in your party best and enjoy the compliments that come your way. You'll have a great time reconnecting with old friends and making new ones.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Holiday galas give you many chances to do what you're so good at -- namely, being the life of the party. Indulge yourself in the good times. You earned it!

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Get out and experience the holiday fun. And remember, while you're a traditionalist with most things, open your mind to how others like to celebrate.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) This is a good time to fill the family den with the love and warmth that you lucky Leos and Leonas exude. Invite friends to share in your happy celebrations.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Indulge yourself in the holiday festivities with family and friends, and forget about those small details that often keep you from enjoying the moment to its maximum.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The holiday season brings family and friends together to help you repair a very special relationship that recently underwent a serious test of commitment.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Set aside those workaday woes, and enjoy the holidays with family and friends. You'll learn soon enough the cause behind those workplace problems.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Aim for a happy, festive time with family and friends. Reach out to friends from the past and restore or reconnect those once-strong ties.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A family member pays you a surprise visit to help you celebrate the holidays. Meanwhile, that workplace problem is closer to getting resolved.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your holiday plans are working out as you had hoped they would. Congratulations! Also, expect news about a long-needed change in the workplace.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your holiday plans could suddenly change, but rest assured, it's for the better. Be ready to go with the flow and accept the unexpected.

BORN THIS WEEK: You aim high, and you aim true. You are a good friend whose loyalty can be relied upon.

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for individuals, organizations, and social causes. This class is a fully inclusive experience for students of all levels of experience and abilities. Workshop participants are encouraged to bring any and all questions.

Session Four: 6 pm-7 pm, Taste Of what's To Come (free and open to all. Advanced registration recommended): During this hour, Garrett and Jess will give a brief demonstration and synopsis of upcoming theater classes and workshops at the MAC.

Mattapoisett Cemetery and Memorials Advisory Committee

Mattapoisett's newly formed Cemetery and Memorials Advisory Committee has several areas of responsibility.

Acting in an advisory manner, the committee will assist the Select Board in matters related to the municipal cemeteries Barlow and Hammond.

They will advise and assist in the coordination of memorial bricks and benches. New forms are available for the purchase of memorial bricks from Town Hall, the Library, or the Council on Aging.

They are also seeking information for the future recognition of all veterans, either buried or interned in Mattapoisett. The committee is working with the Sons of the American Revolution to establish a commemorative plaque naming those Patriots.

Expanding on the identification of all Veterans' graves, if you have information that can assist the committee, please contact Chairman Ray Hanks through the Select Board's office.

NAPA LIBERTY AUTO PARTS



2 Main Street
Acushnet
508-995-6272

212 Emerson St
New Bedford
508-999-6269

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Friends of the Mattapoisett Bicycle and Recreational Path

Friends of the Mattapoisett Bicycle and Recreational Path ask residents who are enjoying the Shining Tides Mile to consider the "bike path" in their year-end giving plans. We're now working with the Town on Phase 2 which will extend the Mattapoisett Rail Trail from Depot Street into the Park Street neighborhood and over to Marion. We've pledged a $50,000 contribution

Groundhog Cover Contest

The Wanderer is once again holding our Groundhog Day Cover Contest.
The winner's artwork will appear on the cover of our February 1 issue.
The winner will also receive a cash prize of $100!



Create an original work of art to be displayed on the cover of *The Wanderer*. Anything that can be displayed on the cover is acceptable, photos, drawings, paintings, etc.
Entries are due in The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett by noon on January 22.
Remember, all artwork should be tall to best fit on our cover.
All entries must include a signed copy of the Official Entry Form which can be picked up at The Wanderer office, 55 County Road, Mattapoisett or downloaded at www.wanderer.com

Voting will start on January 25 and end on January 30. To vote, visit our web page at: **www.wanderer.com.** The winner will be on the cover of our February 1st edition.



TriTown Happenings

At 94, Bob Humphrey was the elder statesman participating in the Christmas Day plunge held at Mattapoisett Town Beach, which including 47 swimmers and raised $2,595 in donations for the benefit of Helping Hands & Hooves. While December 25 was unseasonably mild, the water temperature in the harbor was still chilly as the effort inspired camaraderie among participating friends and couples. Photos by Mick Colageo











(Left) Davin Alves of Marion, an 11-year-old, Sippican Elementary School student, set a high bar for himself last year in raising over $900 for food donations he made to the United Way of New Bedford. This year, Davin wanted to do more. He held raffles, raising $3,470 in donations that he used to buy and donate food, adding two more outlets, the Marion Food Bank at the Cushman Community Center and Damien's Food Pantry in neighboring Wareham. Davin thanks all those who sponsored his drive and those who bought raffle tickets, without which this donation would not have been possible. Photo courtesy Alves Family

These photos and more are available online at www.wanderer.com



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as the local match to a $200,000 MassTrails Grant which will finalize design for Phase 2A so that construction funding for a "shovel ready" project can be requested. We're ¼ of the way to our goal using the funds raised by the 2023 Tour de Crème. A generous donor is matching all contributions up to $2500.

Hopefully, people have read about the significant progress on the Marion Pathway. Friends' funding match of the last mile in Mattapoisett will keep the safe connection to Marion moving forward without pauses, creating protected road crossings of Route 6 and North Street. Learn more at our website www.mattapoisettrailtrail.org.

Contributions to the Friends can be mailed to PO Box 1336, Mattapoisett, MA 02739 or made through GoFundMe. All funds received will be used to support the completion of the path and path amenities. Thank you.

Mattapoisett Land Trust Merchandise

Do you have old Mattapoisett Land Trust merchandise laying around in a drawer somewhere? Well, we'd love to see a picture of it. If you have older, discontinued land trust merchandise, please snap a photo of it and email it to manager@mattlandtrust.org.

Mattapoisett Land Trust is preparing to celebrate our 50th Anniversary in 2024. With that will come exciting new designs for the T-shirts and hats that you always find at the land trust booth on Harbor Days. We'd love to see photos of your old favorite designs to help inspire us in designing some new merchandise.

Shaun's lawns
Est. 1994
-MOWING
-PRUNING
-CLEAN-UP
-MACHINE WORK
-SNOW PLOWING
Jeremy
508-758-9864
Shaunslawns94@gmail.com

George's Pony Pasture Stone Wall Restoration

The Rochester Land Trust has launched a fundraising campaign to restore the stone walls at "George's Pony Pasture" on Mattapoisett Road. The campaign has raised $16,000 so far, $8000 from Land Trust members and another $8000 from an anonymous donor who offered to match every dollar raised, up to $10,000. Masons began work on the wall this past weekend and will continue through November, weather permitting.

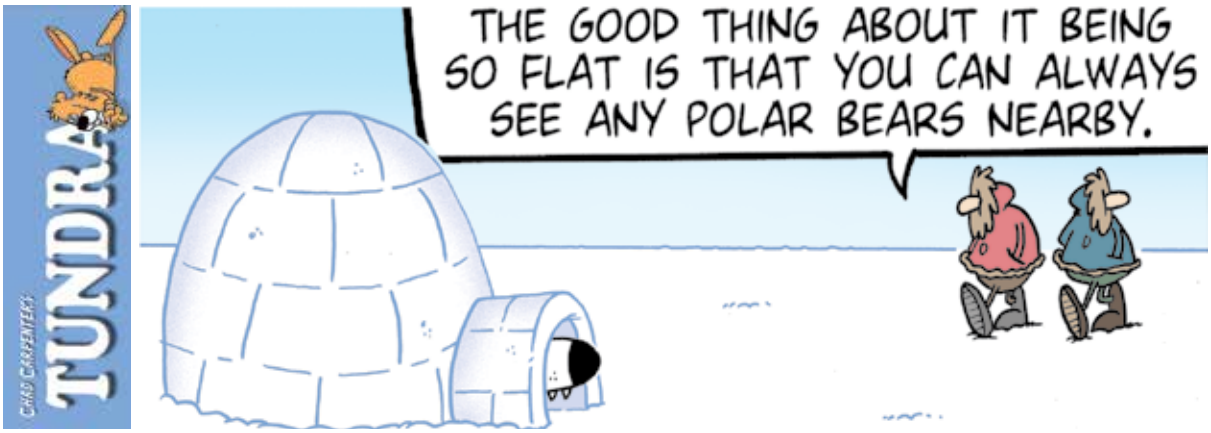
The property is named after philanthropist and town legend George Church, whose pony often grazed in the field beyond the wall. George passed away in 2014 at the age of 90. The Rochester Land Trust acquired three properties from George by virtue of "bargain sales",

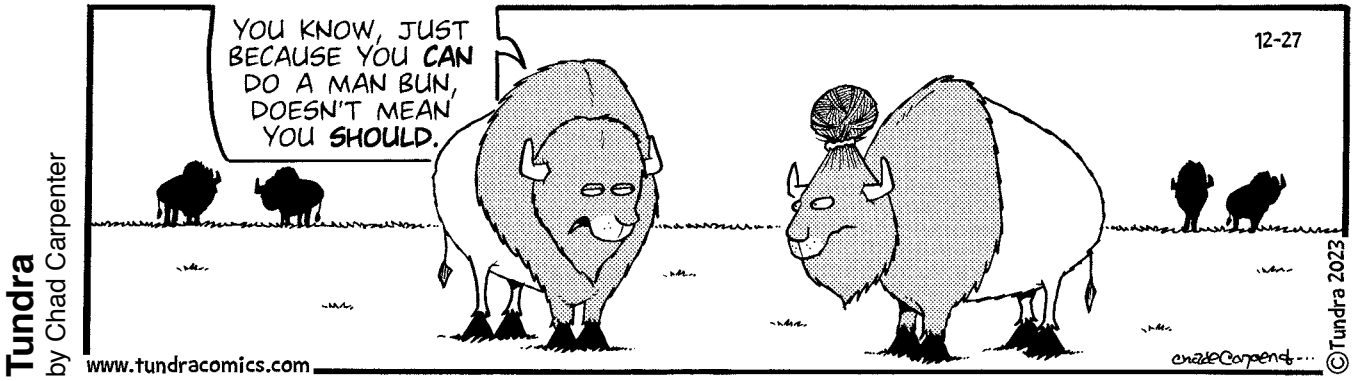
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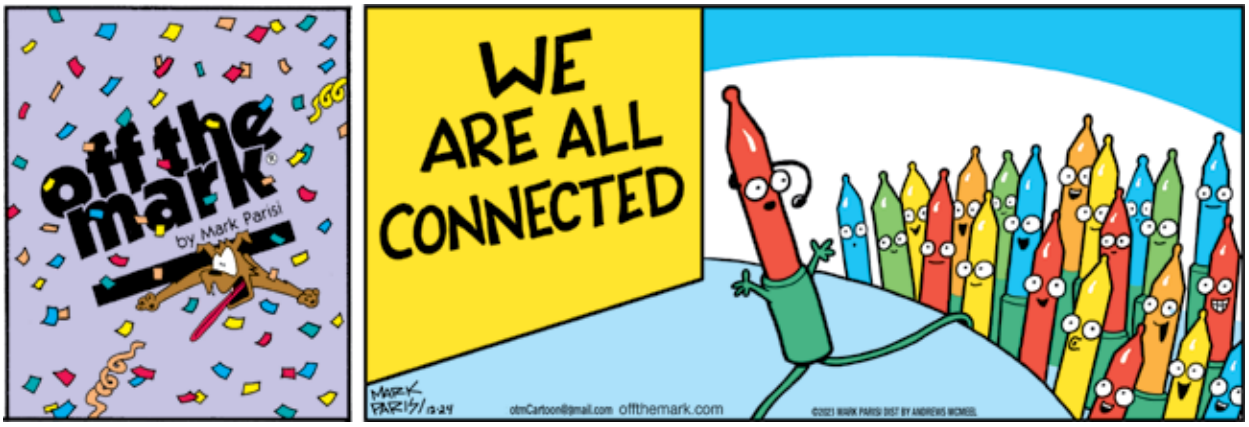
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email (guardenterprises@comcast.net)
website (www.guardoil.net)




TUNDRA
CHAD CARPENTER
THE GOOD THING ABOUT IT BEING SO FLAT IS THAT YOU CAN ALWAYS SEE ANY POLAR BEARS NEARBY.


Tundra
by Chad Carpenter
YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE YOU CAN DO A MAN BUN, DOESN'T MEAN YOU SHOULD.
12-27
www.tundracomics.com
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off the mark
by Mark Parisi
WE ARE ALL CONNECTED
otmCartoon@gmail.com
offthemark.com


Amber Waves
by Dave T. Phipps
SKATING IS TOUGH. YOU'RE GONNA FALL DOWN A LOT. THE TRICK IS TO LEARN HOW BEFORE YOU DECIDE YOU'RE TOO OLD TO DO IT ANYMORE.

where land is purchased for less than market value. All three properties offer the iconic landscapes that are indicative of the rural character that the Land Trust seeks to preserve. While only three acres in size, George's Pony Pasture has over 1,000 feet of road frontage, bounded by dry field stone walls front and back.

Russ Keeler, Treasurer at the RLT, opined "not only does this project enhance Rochester's rural character and honor George Church himself, but it also honors the now forgotten craftsmen who originally built this wall. It boggles the mind to consider the amount of effort expended to clear the field and build this wall, especially before the age of mechanized equipment. We are heartened by and grateful for the close to 50 townspeople who have supported this project so far."

It is not too late to support this project. "It is unrealistic to think we can fix the entire wall, front and back, but the more money we raise, the more of it will be restored", said Keeler. Contributions may be made to the RLT at PO Box 337, Rochester, MA 02770, or by using the PayPal link on their website at www.rochesterlandtrust.org.

BBAHFH Seeking Land

The Buzzards Bay Area Habitat for Humanity is currently seeking partnerships to secure low-cost land for their next home. A local affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International, BBAHFH mission is 'building homes, communities and hope'. BBAHFH was first established in 1996 and serves the nine communities of Acushnet, Dartmouth, Fairhaven, Marion, Mattapoisett, New Bedford, Rochester, Wareham and Westport.

Explains Executive Director Christine Lacourse, "We are currently looking for land in our territory that is a suitable spot to build a house or duplex. Ideally, the land will be donated to BBAHFH by an individual, group or even a governmental entity. The Westport Housing Trust purchased a parcel of undeveloped land and sold it to Habitat for $1,000 for our most recent build. We can also build on city lots and rehab existing homes as well."

Ideally, the lot meets local zoning requirements, has at least 7,000 to 10,000 square feet of area, and access to amenities such as water, sewer and utilities. If no sewer is available, the lot must be able to accommodate a private septic system and needs to have minimal constraints, such as wetlands, ledge or contamination.



Since Habitat for Humanity is a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization, land donations are tax deductible per IRS code. In addition to substantial tax deductions, donors can benefit from shedding unwanted taxable property and can feel good about helping families in need of housing that is affordable. Homes are built with volunteer labor and donations of land, money and materials, as well as a minimum of 300 sweat equity hours that the Habitat family invests into building their own home.

Recipients of a Habitat house must be able to demonstrate a true need for adequate shelter, have the ability to pay a low-interest mortgage, show proof of U.S. citizenship or permanent residence status and reside or work in the affiliate's territory.

"One reason donors love our organization is because Habitat for Humanity provides a hand up, not a handout," remarked Lacourse.

Owning a home has the potential to provide opportunities for success for families, especially for the next generation. By obtaining a home, the family has healthier surroundings and a greater sense of stability. Living in a home, children often make better grades and stay in school longer. Some further their education and grow in their careers because they have gained confidence



LEGAL NOTICES

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING #1201

Notice is hereby given that the Zoning Board of Appeals will conduct a public hearing on the petition of Highland Development Ventures, for property located at 0 Cranberry Highway/Off County Rd, identified on Assessor's Map 17, Lot 41C7, who is seeking a Variance for the maximum floor area ratio of 70% allowed under Chapter 20.20, Section B of the Rochester Zoning By-Laws.

The public hearing will be on January 11, 2024, at 7:15 pm at Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way in Rochester, MA.
David Arancio, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Pursuant to M.G.L. 40A, §5, notice is hereby given that Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024, at 7:00 pm at the Rochester Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770 to consider the following amendments to the Zoning Map and Rochester Zoning Bylaw:

• Revise the Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District to include a parcel located at 621 County Road, also known as Map 17 Lot 47 as shown on the revised Plan, dated December 7, 2023.

• Revise Chapter 21.60, to amend Section 3.0 Overlay District of the Rochester Zoning Bylaws, Cranberry Highway Smart Growth Overlay District.

Copies of the article are on file at the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road during business hours.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81313218755
Meeting ID: 813 1321 8755
Or Call: 1 646 876 9923
Arnold Johnson, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
PLANNING BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Rochester Planning Board will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, January 9, 2024 at 7:00 pm at the Town Hall, 1 Constitution Way, Rochester, MA 02770, regarding a Special Permit for a Back Lot, filed by 15A Mendell Realty Trust, Alan Cervelli Trustee, 340 Rounseville Road, Rochester, MA 02770 for the property located on Mendell Road, identified on Assessor's Map 34, Lot 1 and depicted on a plan entitled, "Approval Not Required Plan of Land & Special Permit For a Back Lot Division Of Land, Mendell Road", dated December 5, 2023 and prepared by John. L. Libby Consulting, Inc., 24 Logan Street, New Bedford, MA 02740.

Further information may be obtained by contacting the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road, during business hours.
Join Zoom Meeting
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81313218755
Meeting ID: 813 1321 8755
Or Call: 1 646 876 9923
Arnold Johnson, Chairman 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
ROAD CLOSURE
PUBLIC NOTICE

Antassawamock Club, Inc. will close its private roads to public traffic on Thursday, December 28, 2023.
Board of Directors
Antassawamock Club, Inc.
Susan Chapman Moss, Secretary 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #817

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:30 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of John P. Kendall Trust, represented by Saltonstall Architects, for a Special Permit under sections 230-6.1 C(1) and 230.6.1 E(a) of the zoning by-law to allow for the demolition and reconstruction of an existing non-conforming residence.

The property, located at 39 Water Street, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 16 as Lot 173A.
Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MARION
ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING CASE #818

The Marion Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing at 6:45 pm on Thursday, January 11, 2024 in the conference room of the Marion Police Station, 550 Mill Street, on the application of Johnson Family Investments LLC, represented by GAF Engineering, for a Variance from section 230-5.2(A) of the zoning by-law to allow for lot coverage to exceed 40% of ground area.

The property, located at 806 Mill Street, is further identified on Assessors' Plan 17 as Lots 12 and 15A.
Cynthia Callow, Chairperson 12/21, 12/28

TOWN OF MATTAPOISETT
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Mattapoisett Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 6:30 pm in the Town Hall (in person and remotely via Zoom **) on the Request for A Determination of Applicability submitted by Evelio D. Suarez, 5350 SW 163 Ave, Southwest Ranches, FL 33331. The proposed project is to remove existing and install new 2,000-gallon capacity sewage holding tank (Tight tank) for existing residence. The project is located at 18 Shore Drive, and is further identified as Lot 39 on Assessor Map 4.
**Contact concomm@mattapoisett.net for the Zoom Meeting Information. 12/28

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TOWN OF MARION
PLANNING BOARD
PUBLIC HEARING
To be held at the Marion Police Department Conference Room
550 Mill Street Also Available via Remote meeting Option

The Marion Planning Board will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 16, 2024, at 7:05 pm to consider the request of Sippican Holdings LLC for a Special Permit pursuant to the Code of the Town of Marion Section 230-7.2 General Requirements and Section 230-4.2 Table of Principal Uses (C. Service Uses) (General Service Establishment) to allow a self-storage facility (General Service Establishment).

The property is located at 13 Barnabas Road, Marion MA and is further identified on Marion Assessor's Map as Plat 24, Lot 10B, zoned Limited Industrial.

The public is invited to attend and comment on this matter and may inspect the full text at the Town House, 2 Spring Street, Office of the Planning Board or Town Clerk during normal business hours. Please email Terri Santos for the remote participation information: tsantos@marionma.gov during normal business hours.
Tucker Burr, Chair
Andrew Daniel, Vice-Chair 12/28, 1/4

TOWN OF ROCHESTER
SOIL BOARD
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

Notice is hereby given that the Rochester Soil Board will conduct a public hearing on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 6:00 pm in the Rochester Town Hall Conference Room, 1 Constitution Way, in Rochester regarding a Soil Removal Permit Application received from Sidney J. Pires Jr., for property located off County Road in Rochester, MA 02770, further identified on Assessor's Map 17, Lot 11. The applicant proposes stripping/stumping of an estimate of 3,000 +/- yardage.

The application and associated submittal documents are available for review at the Rochester Town Hall Annex, 37 Marion Road between the hours of 9:00 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Thursday, and 9:00 am to 1:00 pm on Friday.
Rick Charon, Chairman 12/28, 1/4

TOWN OF MARION
CONSERVATION COMMISSION
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Marion Conservation Commission will hold a public hearing on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, at 7:05 pm at the Marion Police Department Conference Room 550 Mill Street, also available via Microsoft Teams (Remote Participation Option), on a Request for Determination of Applicability, submitted by Thomas de Groot for a porch addition to existing house, 12'x20' attached to west side at 8 Aucoot Avenue.

The site is further identified as Lot 35 on Marion Assessors' Map 19. Plans are available at the Town House for review.
Jeff J. Doubrava, Chair
*Please contact Terri Santos at tsantos@marionma.gov for the Microsoft Teams link and for meeting information. The meeting will be live streamed on ORCTV. 12/28

due to the responsibility of owning a home. A new cycle begins, and it all starts with a home. Families with low-income need home ownership opportunities that are affordable to provide a healthy, stable environment for their family.

For more information on donating or volunteering, visit www.buzzardsbayhabitat.org, email Christine Lacourse at BuzzardsBayAreaHabitat@yahoo.com, or call (508) 758-4517.

South Coast Chamber Music Series

South Coast Chamber Music Series (SCCMS) Artistic Director Janice Weber is pleased to announce the full program for the 2023-2024 season. "Welcome to another season of spectacular chamber music performed by artists of the NBSO. This year The Brass join in for a brilliant blowout and throughout the season, masterworks traversing three centuries are leavened with a selection of delectable duos. Our precious heritage of American chamber music – startling, majestic, and unique – features on each program. With special gratitude to Patty Plum Wylde for her sponsorship of our February concert, we look forward to seeing all of our steadfast supporters for another exciting journey together.

This SCCMS season features NBSO musicians Jesse Holstein, violin; EmmaLee Holmes-Hicks, violin; Ethan Wood, violin; Anna Griffis, viola; Leo Eguchi, cello; Janice Weber, piano; Peter Zay, cello; Christopher Nunn, viola; Zebediah Upton, trumpet; Geoffrey Shamu, trumpet; Seth Budahl, trombone; Michael Bellofatto, horn; James Monaghan, bass trombone; as well as SCCMS Artistic Director Janice Weber, piano.

Concert Listing:
Viva Viola: **February 3 & 4**
Trifecta: **March 9 & 10**
Banquet: **April 27 & 28**

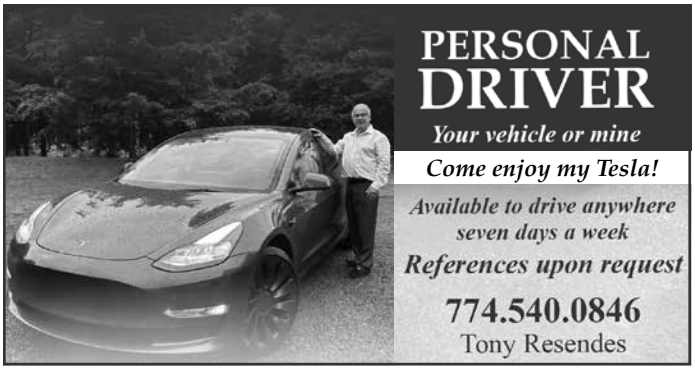
Saturday concerts will take place at 4:00 pm at St. Gabriel's Episcopal Church, 124 Front Street, Marion. Sunday concerts will take place at 4:00 pm at St. Peter's Episcopal Church, 351 Elm Street, South Dartmouth. Individual concert tickets are $25 and must be purchased in advance. Save 20% by subscribing to all 5 concerts for $100. Tickets and subscriptions are available online at nbsymphony.org/chamber-series-2023-2024 or by calling the NBSO office: 508-999-6276 ext. 222.

The NBSO is a professional orchestra that annually presents a concert series of classical and pops music with internationally acclaimed guest artists, as well as an outstanding chamber music series. In addition, the NBSO's innovative and nationally recognized educational programs reach 8,000 students each year. The NBSO is dedicated to building a community of music in the South Coast. Visit www.nbsymphony.org today.

Media Lab Open at the Mattapoisett Library

The Mattapoisett Free Public Library has an exciting update to our technology services. To support the needs of budding and seasoned makers and artists, the Media Lab is now open and ready for use. Building upon an existing 3D Printer and worktable, the Media Lab is now equipped with tools to help users design and produce innovative and original projects with ease. Details about equipment and rules for usage are located on the Media Lab page on our website, mattapoisettlibrary.org.

The purpose of the Mattapoisett Library's Media Lab is to provide library users with a space where they may use various digital media, creative software and associated technologies that support their educational, professional and personal goals and endeavors. Within the Mattapoisett Media Lab, users will be able to utilize tools like the Media Lab computer, 3D Printer, 3D Scanner, Cricut, Cricut Smart Heat Press, Animation Studio Kit and



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TRIVIA TEST
By Fifi Rodriguez

1. FOOD & DRINK: What is ciabatta?
2. TELEVISION: What is the name of the 1980s cop drama series starring actor William Shatner?
3. HISTORY: In which year did the Gulf oil spill occur?
4. LITERATURE: Who wrote the classic holiday novella "The Cricket on the Hearth"?
5. INVENTIONS: Who invented penicillin?
6. GEOGRAPHY: Monaco is bordered on three sides by which European country?
7. U.S. STATES: Which state's nickname is "The Land of Enchantment"?
8. MOVIES: What is the name of the police chief in the movie "Jaws"?
9. GENERAL KNOWLEDGE: What does the J.D. stand for in a law degree?
10. MUSIC: Which singer had a breakout hit with "I Kissed a Girl"?

Answers
1. An Italian bread.
2. "T.J. Hooker."
3. 2010.
4. Charles Dickens.
5. Alexander Fleming.
6. France.
7. New Mexico.
8. Martin Brody.
9. Juris Doctor.
10. Katy Perry.

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Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

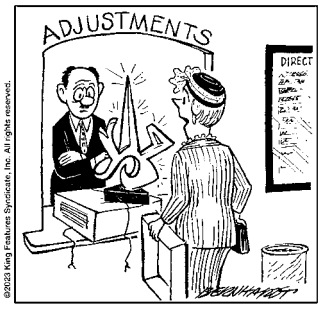
3					4	1		7
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		1			7		9	
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	2				5			1
	7	3		6		8		
9			7				5	4

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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"I bought it as a conversation piece, my husband hasn't _ _ _ _ _ _ with me since!"

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!

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Loose
LACKS

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TODAY'S WORD

more. Software that users can take advantage of includes the Corel Suite and the Adobe Creative Suite.

If you would like to learn more about the Mattapoisett Media Lab or reserve a time to use it, please call the library at 508-758-4171 or email Michelle Skaar at mskaar@sailsinc.org.

New Bedford Symphony 2023-2024 Season

The New Bedford Symphony Orchestra and Music Director Yaniv Dinur are pleased to announce the 2023-2024 concert series, taking place at New Bedford High School's Bronspiegel Auditorium. Subscription tickets for the season are now available, and individual concert tickets will go on sale in August.

"I'm excited to present to you a concert season like never before. Never before – because we won't be at the Zeiterion this season (you might have heard it's getting a makeover.) Never before – because we will be at the New Bedford High School. But mostly never before – because every live concert is a unique experience that never happened before and once finished, will never return. That's the magic – and mystery – of the phenomena of music. I can't wait to see you at the symphony." – Yaniv Dinur, Music Director

NBSO 2023-2024 Season:

January 20, Movie Pops: Let's Get Animated
March 16, Growth: Jesse Holstein, violin and Anna Griffis, viola
April 13, Many Contrasts: Katherine Chi, piano
May 18, The Way of Passion: Sergei Babayan, piano

All concerts will take place at the Bronspiegel Auditorium, New Bedford High School, 230 Hathaway Boulevard, New Bedford. Classical performances include preconcert talks by Music Director Yaniv Dinur at 6:30 pm in the auditorium.

Subscriptions are now available. Subscribe to the full season (7 concerts) and receive a discount of 15% off ticket prices, while a discount of 10% is applied when you subscribe to your choice of 3 to 6 concerts. You can find complete concert details and subscribe online through the NBSO website (www.nbsymphony.org) or by calling the NBSO at 508-999-6276, ext. 222. Subscribe today to get the







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The Town of Mattapoisett is accepting resumes to fill the Inspectional Services Director position for the Building Department. Full Job Description is available on the Town website under Current Job Openings. Please send resumes to bebert@mattapoisett.net

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CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

Classified Policy: All Classified Advertisements must be prepaid and can be placed at our office or on line at www.wanderer.com.

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Classified Rates:
Classified Advertisements are $5.00 for 3 lines or less per week. Each additional line is $1.00 per week. There are an average of six words per line. Bold is an addition $1 per week.

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*Classified Ads cannot be taken over the phone.

Mailing Classified Ads: Ads can be mailed with payment to P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739

Placing Classified Ads On-line: Ads can be placed on line at: www.wanderer.com

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Birthday Parties at the MAC

The Marion Art Center's Arts & Crafts instructor Aylin Cetik is offering birthday parties in the MAC Studio. Parties for ages 4 and up will be scheduled on Saturdays and Sundays, with 15-20 minutes reserved at the end of the party for a sweet treat. Available times are 10 am-11:30 am or 1:00 pm-2:30 pm. Suggested party themes include: mermaids, fairies, outer space, pirates, art & science or custom. The cost is $275 for up to ten guests and $15 for each additional child with a maximum of 15 children. Add-on options include outdoor lawn games, or other activities by request, for an additional fee. For more information and to inquire about dates, email aylincetik@gmail.com.

Mattapoisett Republican Party

The Mattapoisett Republican Party has returned as an organization to Mattapoisett. Everyone interested in participating in the GOP should contact Bill Reidy, Chair Mattapoisett GOP, email: ChairMattGOP@Gmail.com; Mail: 82 County Rd., PMB #17, Mattapoisett, MA 02739; Mobile: 508-287-8008; Website: MattapoisettGOP.com; Facebook: Mattapoisett Republican Party; Twitter:





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HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

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Megan Field	December 28
Amber Gilbert	December 29
Christian Pedulli	December 30
Nicole Cameron	December 30
Tom Stewart	December 30
Bill Barnes Jr.	December 31
Herb Webb	December 31
Karen M. Paquette	December 31
Sheryl Aguiar	December 31
Alexis "Lexi" Lord	January 1
Alissa Holt	January 1
Ava Teixera	January 1
Brianna Grignetti	January 1
Kai'Ana M. Perez	January 1
Ted Wright	January 1
Stephen Arne	January 2
Betsy Finch-Kaplan	January 3
Carissa Bailey	January 3
Josefa Alvarado-Donoso	January 3
Juliana Nicolosi	January 3
Kathleeen Dunn	January 3

If you would like *The Wanderer* to announce a birthday for yourself, a friend or family member, please submit your information online to us at www.wanderer.com. To submit information by regular mail, please send the person's name (month and day) along with your name and phone number so we can confirm the information to Birthdays, c/o The Wanderer, P.O. Box 102, Mattapoisett, MA 02739. You may submit birthday announcements anytime during the year and they will be published/posted during the appropriate week.



Mattapoisett Republican Party, @MattyMAGOP.

Marion Natural History Museum

Attention Pre-Schoolers and Homeschoolers, the Marion Natural History Museum is now open to the public on Friday mornings. The museum features collections of minerals, fossils, butterflies, birds of prey and many other specimens. Appointments may be made for field trips. If you would like to schedule a time to come in and view these specimens as part of a lesson or just for fun, please contact the director for an appointment. We are open Wednesdays 10 – 4 pm and Fridays 10 – 4 pm.

Emergency Preparedness

This is the perfect time to think about and prepare for emergencies and disasters as Massachusetts faces a variety of hazards – weather related or others throughout the year.

If you feel that you would require assistance in an emergency, we would like to have a discussion with you so we can prepare a plan that will be ready to go when needed.

-If you rely on medical equipment at your residence that requires electricity.

-If you would require transportation to a shelter when such a need arises or live in a known flood zone.

-If you have a communication-related disability, we need to know the best way to communicate in an emergency state.

-If you take medications, we need a list.

-If there is any other targeted assistance that you may need.

Please call the Council on Aging at 508-748-3570 so we can compile this information which will be reported to Community Emergency Response Team (CERT.) We want to be prepared.

We encourage residents and family members who may reside out of town to sign up for E- alerts from the Town of Marion (Visit marionma.gov/subscribe.)

Heating and Utility Relief for Tri-Town Area Elders

Coastline Elderly Services, Inc. is providing assistance to older people in the communities of Marion, Mattapoisett and Rochester who need help with paying the heat or electric bills.

The funds will pay for gas, electric, propane, wood or other heating needs to help reduce the financial burden for many elders who have difficulty with these purchases.

Funding for this project was made possible by the George E. Curtis Charitable Trust.

Please contact the Council on Aging in each town to complete a simple application. Only one older person in the household who qualifies for this program will receive a one-time assistance of $400.

For the councils on aging in Marion, please call 508- 748-3570; Mattapoisett, 508- 758-4110 and Rochester at 508-763-8723.



Tri-Town Against Racism

Tri-Town against Racism (TTAR) announces they have developed a system to document discriminatory incidents experienced by community members in the Tri-Town. Collecting this information will help to identify how to best support the Tri-Town Region. The incident report can be completed online, either on a computer or mobile device, anonymously if preferred. Community members can also choose to identify themselves to TTAR

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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

A Powerful Prayer to the Holy Spirit
Holy Spirit, you who solve all problems, who light all roads so I can attain my goals, you who give me the divine gifts to forgive and forget all evil against me, in this short prayer to thank you for all things and confirm once again that I never want to be separated from you, even in spite of all material illusions. I wish to be with you in eternal glory. Thank you for your mercy towards me and mine. Say this prayer for 3 consecutive days. The favor requested will be granted. This prayer must be published immediately after the favor is granted. Don't mention the favor. Only your initials shall appear at the bottom. P.L.

A PRAYER TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN
O most beautiful flower of Mt. Carmel, fruitful vine, splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me here you are my Mother. O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to secure me in my necessity (make request). There are none that can withstand your power. O Mary conceived without sin pray for us who have recourse to thee (3 times). Holy Mary, I place this cause in your hands (3 times). Say this prayer for three consecutive days and then you must publish; it will be granted to you. P.L.

Apartment For Rent
2 bedroom apt on private country road
Must like the woods. Heat, hot water & electric all included - $1850. No pets/no smoking
Must be able to shovel your own sidewalk
Call 508-951-6264 after 12:00

ARBOR TECH SERVICES
Professional Tree Removal
Trimming, Crane Services,
Cabling, Stump Grinding,
and Power Washing.
10+ years of experience.
Fully insured. Free Estimates.
Call Raphael at 508-209-1777.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

Blinstrub's Painting, Finishing & Remodeling
drywall repairs, bathroom remodels,
flooring, decks, pergolas
508-951-5160
blinstrubs@gmail.com

Cash for trucks & cars
Same day removal - foreign & domestic
508-642-9128

Cleaning By Solange
Reliable, trustworthy professional with references. My services include: daily, weekly, monthly, or one time cleaning. Please call (774) 360-1975

Couple would seeks another woman to live with us in a loving ongoing family type setting. He is a physician and she is a nurse. We have no children.

We are nonsmokers. No drugs. No diseases. And no lazy days.
Send a reply if interested. to docpaul@olypen.com

Demers Construction Company
Licensed and Insured General Contractor
New Construction - Remodels - Additions - Decks
Siding - Windows - Doors - Kitchens
Email: Nathan@Demerscc.com
View our work at DemersCC.com or **Facebook.com/DemersCC**
Give us a call for a free estimate! **774.849.2325**

Thank you everyone for entrusting us with your homes! It has been a pleasure serving this community for the past 5 years and we look forward to the years to come!
From our family to yours; **Have a wonderful holiday and New Year!**
Best Wishes, **Nathan, Joe, and Rafael**

DUMP RUNS and MORE Any cleanup, yards, houses, attics, apts, etc. Oil tank and boiler removal call Cliff 508-472-8539

Electrician Eric Cordeiro for good work & reasonable prices, 24hr service, big & small jobs, will call back same day. 508-995-4496

NEIGHBORS HELPING NEIGHBORS
For Mattapoisett
Volunteers Urgently Needed
508-758-4110
FISH

The *Wanderer*

The Wanderer *is an independently owned and published weekly newspaper that is distributed to the public free of charge throughout Mattapoisett, Marion, Rochester and the surrounding communities.*

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PEARLS BEFORE SWINE
by Stephan Pastis



in the report. Their personal identifying information will never be shared outside of TTAR. The incident report allows for individuals or families to share their stories to inform local change. Completing the form and sharing your experiences with TTAR will help to make a positive impact! The incident report can be found by visiting this link: forms.gle/UGEsEmjBCZTEYKX56.

Overeaters Anonymous

Overeaters Anonymous (OA) is a fellowship that welcomes people seeking recovery from overeating, anorexia, bulimia and compulsive food behaviors. Weekly Saturday OA meetings take place in St. Gabriel's Parish Hall (Marion) at 8:00 am (Twelve Step meeting) and 9:00 am (OA Literature meeting.) For more information, visit www.scmioa.org.

Mattapoisett Recreation Fall Programming

Mattapoisett Recreation is happy to announce that sign-ups are open for all Fall Programs! Many favorites are returning, Flag football, Kid Fit, Running & Track Club, Center Stage Kids, Tennis, Pickleball (Youth & Adult lessons), Crafting & Robotics. We are pleased to announce a new before-school program, Morning Movement Club. Visit our website at www.mattrec.net to see all offerings and program information. Sign up today, as many programs fill before registration deadlines!

Rochester Board of Health

The Town of Rochester and the Board of Health offer no-cost weekly Keep Well Health Clinics facilitated by Rochester's Public Health Nurse, Connie Dolan, RN. Services include answers to your health questions, blood pressure checks and monitoring, lung sound assessment, blood oxygenation assessment, medication review, information about health topics important to you and other basic clinical services. The Keep Well Health Clinics are held weekly at the Rochester Senior Center from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm on Wednesdays.

American Legion: Florence Eastman Post # 280

All Southcoast Active Service Military, Reservists and Veterans are invited to join the monthly meetings of the American Legion: Florence Eastman Post #280 (Serving the Tri-Town area of Mattapoisett - Marion - Rochester and beyond.) We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 1900 (7 pm.) Florence Eastman Post is located at 3 Depot Street in Mattapoisett. Commander: Rachel Perron, Tri-Town Veterans Service Agent: Chris Gerrior. The Legion Hall is also available for single event or recurring rentals. For more information, contact Veterans@mattapoisett.net.

Mission: The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress in 1919 as a patriotic veterans' organization devoted to mutual helpfulness. It is the nation's largest wartime veterans service organization, committed to mentoring youth and sponsorship of wholesome programs in our communities, advocating patriotism and honor, promoting strong national security and continued devotion to our fellow service members and veterans.

OBITUARIES

There are no Obituaries this week.

If you have a notice you would like to have included in the Obituaries section, please contact our office at: 508 758-9055, or by email at office@wanderer.com.

FISH - Friends in Service Helping

Friends in Service Helping have been in operation in Mattapoisett since 1969. We provide rides to medical appointments for elderly residents who cannot drive anymore. We service Mattapoisett residents with transportation from their homes to Wareham, Marion, Fairhaven, New Bedford and Dartmouth, as well as right here in Mattapoisett. Last year alone, we transported 409 residents.

Our town does not have public transportation. Our elderly residents are counting on FISH to get them to their medical appointments. We need more volunteer callers and drivers. We always work around your schedule when it is convenient for you! To find out more about your opportunity to be a FISH volunteer, please call FISH Coordinator Cathy Dupont at 508-758-9681.

Real Estate Transactions

See past listing on our website: www.wanderer.com

Buyer(s)	Seller(s)	Address	City	Date	Price
Pina, Albin R	Turley, Donna M Dragon, Steven E Pina, August A Jr Est	1001 Point Rd	Marion	12/06/2023	300,000.00
J Thomas Bowler Jr 2021 IT Bowler, Ellen P TR	Bowler, J Thomas Jr	17 Moorings Rd	Marion	12/07/2023	10,200,000.00
Noblet, Ryan Noblet, Stephanie	Sdr Nominee Realty Trust Romsey, Steven D TR	932 Point Rd	Marion	12/11/2023	452,515.66

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Local Tides

Day	Date	High a.m.	High p.m.	Low a.m.	Low p.m.
Thursday	December 28	8:43	9:03	1:34	2:49
Friday	December 29	9:24	9:47	2:19	3:21
Saturday	December 30	10:05	10:30	3:03	3:54
Sunday	December 31	10:45	11:14	3:46	4:29
Monday	January 1	11:25	11:58	4:30	5:04
Tuesday	January 2		12:04	5:17	5:44
Wednesday	January 3	12:40	12:45	6:14	6:30
Thursday	January 4	1:22	1:29	7:24	7:22
Friday	January 5	2:07	2:19	8:40	8:17
Saturday	January 6	2:58	3:18	9:45	9:13
Sunday	January 7	3:57	4:22	10:37	10:06
Monday	January 8	4:55	5:21	11:25	10:57
Tuesday	January 9	5:49	6:13		11:46
Wednesday	January 10	6:39	7:03	12:01	12:59
Thursday	January 11	7:27	7:52	12:36	1:47
Friday	January 12	8:16	8:41	1:29	2:33
Saturday	January 13	9:06	9:32	2:21	3:15
Sunday	January 14	9:56	10:25	3:13	3:56

Phases of the Moon		
	Last Quarter	January 3rd
	New Moon	January 11th
	First Quarter	January 17th
	Full Moon	January 25th



I Found the Aardvark!

Each week, hidden somewhere in the pages of *The Wanderer* is a tiny drawing of an aardvark. The little guy you are looking for looks exactly like the one pictured above (but don't put down this page as your answer, there's another one hidden somewhere in this issue).

Once you find the aardvark you can submit your answer on line and if you are right you will get Aardvark Points! You can then use these points to get cool Aardvark Prizes!

To enter visit: www.wanderer.com and Click on ***I Found the Aardvark***

In the December 21, 2023 edition the Aardvark was on page 10

PUZZLE ANSWERS

CROSSWORD SOLUTION

H	O	P	I	■	M	W	A	H	■	F	B	I	L	A	B	■	A	M	P	S	
O	R	E	S	■	R	O	S	A	■	R	U	D	E	L	Y	■	T	O	R	O	
F	R	A	C	T	I	O	N	S	■	E	M	I	N	O	R	■	T	R	E	X	
■	■	S	H	O	■	L	E	F	T	S	■	■	T	O	O	T	E	R	S	■	
■	S	A	I	N	T	F	R	A	N	C	I	S	O	F	A	S	S	I	S	I	
B	E	L	A	I	R	■	■	I	T	A	L	L	■	■	D	A	T	S	U	N	
R	E	A	■	G	I	A	N	T	■	■	I	A	M	B	■	■	T	O	R	N	
A	N	D	T	H	E	N	T	H	E	R	E	W	E	R	E	N	O	N	E	■	
■	■	■	O	T	R	A	S	■	Z	E	D	■	S	I	N	E	■	■	■	■	
O	M	A	N	■	■	■	B	E	R	G	■	H	A	N	D	W	R	O	T	E	
R	E	T	I	N	A	L	■	M	A	I	Z	E	■	E	S	T	O	N	I	A	
B	A	L	C	O	N	I	E	S	■	M	I	M	E	■	■	■	U	S	E	R	
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S	A	N	T	A	S	■	■	E	A	T	E	R	■	■	G	I	F	T	E	D	
E	N	T	E	R	T	A	I	N	M	E	N	T	C	E	N	T	E	R	S	■	
■	L	E	N	T	I	L	S	■	■	L	O	H	A	N	■	O	W	E	■	■	
B	A	R	T	■	T	O	N	S	I	L	■	M	I	S	C	R	E	A	N	T	
I	D	E	E	■	C	H	O	I	C	E	■	A	R	U	T	■	S	C	A	R	
O	D	D	S	■	H	A	T	T	E	R	■	N	O	E	S	■	T	H	E	Y	

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Clasp 2. Slack;
3. Strain; 4. Compel

Today's Word

SPOKEN

Sudoku Answer

3	5	2	8	9	4	1	6	7
1	6	9	2	7	3	5	4	8
7	4	8	1	5	6	9	3	2
2	3	1	5	8	7	4	9	6
6	8	7	3	4	9	2	1	5
4	9	5	6	1	2	7	8	3
8	2	4	9	3	5	6	7	1
5	7	3	4	6	1	8	2	9
9	1	6	7	2	8	3	5	4

off the mark by Mark Parisi



Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

SALE EFFECTIVE:
Friday, December 29, 2023 — Thursday, January 4, 2024

565 Rounseville Road • Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

Grocery, Dairy, & Frozen



Fever-Tree
16.9 oz. Selected
Drink Mixers
2/$5
Plus Dep



Hunt's
6 oz.
Tomato Paste
$1.19

Kellogg's - 9.6-11.7 oz. Selected
Special K Cereal **$3.99**

Annie's - 6 oz. Selected
Pasta & Cheese **2/$4**

Progresso - 19 oz. Selected
Beans **$1.69**

Briannas Home Style
12 oz. Selected
Dressing **$3.29**

Filippo Berio
25.3 oz. Selected
Olive Oil **$10.99**



Stonyfield
10 oz. Selected
Organic Smoothies
2/$4

Snack Factory
7.2 oz. Selected
Pretzel Crisps **$2.99**

Nabisco
10 oz. Original
Fig Newtons **$3.99**

Bear Naked
12 oz. Selected
Granola **$4.99**

Nabisco
9-16 oz. Premium Oyster or
Saltine Crackers **$3.99**

Cape Cod Cafe
16 oz. Cheese
Pizza **$6.99**

Bakery

Jessica's Brick Oven Bakery
20 oz. Loaf Selected
Tuscan Bread **$3.99**

Store Made
Garlic Bread **$2.99**





Wine



R. Stuart & Co. Winery
750 ml Oregon
Big Fire, Pinot Gris
Wine
$18.99
Reg. Price: $19.99

Self-Serve Drinks Bar

Featuring MA based Fogbuster hot coffee & cold drinks on tap including:

- Organic juices
- Nitro brew coffee
- Cold brew coffee
- Unsweetened iced tea
- Hot Chocolate also available!

Meat, Deli, Prepared Foods & Cheese



Fresh
Pork Tenderloin
$3.99 lb



North Coast
Naked Shrimp
7 oz. Pkg. 41-50 ct.
Shrimp Ring
$9.99

Boar's Head
American Cheese **$6.99 lb**

Boar's Head - 6 oz. Pouch
Pepperoni **$2.99**

Rondele - 8 oz. Pkg.
Cheddar or
Port Wine Cheese **$5.99**

Store Packaged
Egg Salad **$10.19 lb**

Store Packaged
Red Dill Potato Salad **$6.49 lb**





Delicious Hot Soups available daily!

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!

Why wait in line when you can order ahead online! Download the Chow Now app, order and pay online, and skip the line!

ChowNow

Check our new selections of
Local & Craft Beer, Cider & Wine!

Visit our new website!
www.friendsplumbcorner.com

HAPPY NEW YEAR
from all of us at Friends' Marketplace!

Friends' marketplace

at PLUMB CORNER

Visit our website:
www.friendsplumbcorner.com

565 Rounseville Rd.
Rochester, MA 02770
Phone: 508.763.5333

New Year's Eve: 7am-6pm
New Year's Day: 10am-6pm

Open Daily: 7am–8pm

We reserve the right to limit quantities & correct typographical errors. Illustrations are for design purposes only. Items are while supplies last and no rain checks. Due to current market conditions, item retails may change and products may become unavailable unexpectedly.

SALE EFFECTIVE: Friday, December 29, 2023 — Thursday, January 4, 2024

BLOCKBUSTER SAVINGS!



Friends'
Premium Certified
Black Angus, Boneless
Rib Eye Roast
$17.99 lb



Friends'
Store Baked
Turkey
$9.49 lb



Fableist
750 ml California
Merlot
Wine
$16.99
Reg. Price: $17.99



Progresso
14.5-19 oz. Selected
Keto or
Vegetable Classics
Soup
2/$5



Oui by Yoplait
5 oz. Selected
French Style Yogurt
5/$5



Food Club
8 oz. Selected
Bars or Shredded
Cheese
2/$5

Quality Produce



California
Navel Oranges..... **$1.49 lb**

3 lb. Pkg. California
Navel Oranges..... **$3.99**

Hass
Avocados..... **2/$3**

Head
Cauliflower..... **2/$7**

Fresh
Green Cabbage..... **79¢ lb**

Hot House
Tomatoes..... **$2.99 lb**

SEE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL GREAT SAVINGS THIS WEEK!